

jcg



A magazine for Bundanoon
and Southern Villages



Just for fun
Locals at leisure

16–17

A Bundanoon
country Christmas

19

Hell Hole
revisited

24

Ruthless
downsizing

36

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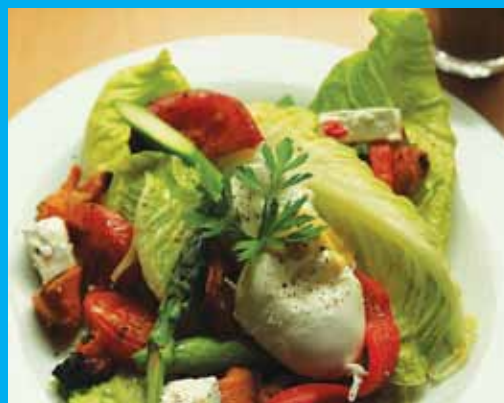
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Cameron Reid, Jim Kurrle and the Rev Jeremy Tonks take part in the Battle of the Businesses. Photo by Wayne Todd.

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**Pam Davies,
Editor**

From the Editor

'JUST FOR FUN' draws a broad brush across the activities of a few people who happened by chance to be selected for the centre section of this issue. There are many people in our community who have interests they pursue for the sheer love of what they do and would share their enthusiasm with readers but space defines the number of stories we can tell. The members of sporting groups in town also participate in training and competition because that's what they enjoy. In this issue we have featured some of them and published their contact details in the index on page 49.

Rosemary Page and John Brock need no introduction to many people in Bundanoon and following the fires in the north of the shire the story of their long association with RFS is timely. The next display at the History Shed featuring 'Fun and Games' opens soon and reflects the keen interest in Bundanoon's sport and recreation history. Details can be found along with the story of the Hell Hole in this issue. I would like to thank regular contributors to *jcg* and also the advertisers who help to make the magazine such a colourful publication.

Best wishes for the festive season and I look forward to working with the *jcg* team in 2014.

contents



fun & games

Just for fun.....	25
How does Graeme's garden grow?	26
Bring a plate – not a problem!	28
Building in stone – just for fun!	29
Nippon down to the farm.....	30
Tutti (all together now).....	31
On being a chorister	31
'Those things we love...'	32
Mastering the dance	32

features

Sun shines on 17th Ramble	11
History: Hell Hole mystery	19
The 2013 CamelBak Highland Fling.....	21
A choral cacophony	21
Crash Test Drama Gala Final	22
Short story: Ruthless downsizing	24
Word play	24
Bundanoon Highlanders.....	34
A tennis renaissance in Bundanoon!.....	35
Netball	35
Treading the boards.....	36
Fire-fighting duo.....	37
Bundanoon Rebels	39
Swimming: Rising to the challenge.....	41

BCA meetings

Third Thursday each month:

19 December, 16 January, 20 February:
7:30pm in Supper Room at the Hall.

columns

Vet's casebook: No place like home	18
Through Ross-coloured glasses	18
Bundanoon observer.....	23
Garden Club	23
Pedalling words	42
Life skills.....	42



regulars

Green Team.....	10
Arts Bundanoon.....	10
JCG Travel	13
Council news.....	15
BCA report.....	15
Intray	21
Cryptic crossword	43
Men's Shed celebration	43
Crossword solution.....	47
CWA report.....	47
Activities and services.....	49
Advertising index.....	52

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Advertising info: page 49

**Deadline for next issue:
Friday 7 February**



NOT EVERYONE'S IDEA of an ideal Sunday involves gumboots, gardening gloves and secateurs, but for the Glow Worm Glen Track Weeding Group, the rewards are worth the effort. On the second Sunday of every month they meet to tackle the problem of invasive plants in the vicinity of the Glow Worm Glen Track. Undaunted by rain, blackberries, leeches and, once a year, missing half of Mothers Day, they have been pushing back the tide of weeds since 1998. They have come up against forests of thistles, berberis and privets large enough to need a chainsaw, blackberry thickets as large as houses and trees so thickly draped in ivy that they seem to be monsters rising from a primordial swamp. It's slightly more dramatic than a Sunday spent mowing the lawn, but also more fulfilling. The group has had the satisfaction of seeing the track transformed by their efforts from a weed infested path into a bushland corridor filled with native plants and wildlife, including echidnas, ringtail possums and whip birds. This transformation is a testament to the dedication of the weeders, who have maintained a spirit of determination and camaraderie throughout. Weed removal is not the only achievement of the group – it is also an opportunity to form new friendships and maintain old ones over a break for coffee, tea and biscuits. The Glow Worm Glen Weeders have managed to contribute to the community, the environment and each other, and have fun in the process.

—Maeve Clark

2013 Gala Night

IN KEEPING WITH our aim of bringing the world to Bundanoon, this year's Gala Concert brought us "A Night in Vienna".

The audience filled the hall to capacity and everyone's enthusiasm produced an atmosphere well in keeping with Imperial Vienna. During the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and particularly in the heady decades that spanned the 18th and 19th centuries, the capital Vienna was a great centre. It was a magnet for brilliant composers and for superb musicians. We had both for the gala Night in Vienna.

The hall itself sprouted a patch of the Vienna woods and simultaneously spread a distinctly Viennese décor (thanks to the team of imaginative set designers).

It was a great pleasure to once again welcome **Gerard Willems**, one of Australia's well known and highly regarded classical

pianists. This year Mr Willems brought his friend, the renowned violinist **Yevgeny Sorkin**. Playing sonatas from classical Mozart, daringly innovative Beethoven and romantic Brahms they whirled us through musical Vienna and floated us out the doors to echoes of Kreisler's Old Viennese dances.

To all who made the concert: the performers, the audience and the volunteers: thank you!

If you were not able to attend, watch the website to see which country will come to our Soldiers Memorial Hall in the next Gala Concert. There is a review of the 2013 event, including programme details, on the site. Also use the website (or watch for posters) to make your plans to see performers who have included a Bundanoon "Piano at Ten" in their local and international schedules for 2014: www.artsbundanoon.org.au

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Sun shines on 17th Ramble

DESPITE THE LACK of rain, the horrendous winds and the bush fires which certainly deterred a number of attendees, the 17th annual Garden Ramble was declared a resounding success. That success is due firstly to the generous garden owners who worked tirelessly, at times in adverse conditions, to ensure that their gardens were spectacular for the weekend. We are very grateful to them for their generosity. The eight private gardens were all very different, attracted large crowds and very positive feedback from visitors.

As was said in the publicity prior to the Ramble, *'gardens to admire, gardens to inspire, gardens large and small, native and cottage, Bundanoon has them all'* and it certainly has.

The money raised is used for community activities including Green Team projects in the public spaces of Bundanoon. This year the ramble raised approximately \$10,000 clear of expenses.

The speakers were a new initiative this year and although not as well attended as was hoped still proved to have a positive effect on the overall Ramble. The scarecrow competition sponsored by Lions attracted some wonderful entries including the very large spider at the entrance to the town. The success of the weekend was due to all the hard work and effort contributed by the Garden Club members who manned the gates, the Mens' Shed members who drove the buses, the many volunteers who helped with various activities, the children from Bundanoon Public School who dressed up as scarecrows, fairies and goblins in the Community Garden, and of course a glorious weekend of sunshine.



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JCG Travel

FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL trip to Port Stephens with 41 travellers in October, JCG Travel's next trip away will be to Tumut and surrounding areas in April. As our trip is in the week following Tumut's annual Festival of the Falling Leaf we will enjoy some spectacular scenery.

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The leaves will still be falling...

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Bundanoon sesquicentenary

A WELL-ATTENDED TOWN meeting in the Hall on September 22 launched planning for the celebration of Bundanoon's sesquicentenary in 2015. The enthusiasm for the 150th year commemoration was clearly evident and many constructive and creative suggestions were noted down.

Importantly, several people have come forward to play a role at some level in the organisation of the year's celebrations and targeted events, but there is room for plenty more.

At the recent monthly BCA meeting it was agreed that the 150th committee would be accepted as a sub-committee of BCA, thus taking advantage of existing incorporation, administrative structure and insurances. 2015 in Bundanoon will not be just a BCA affair –

community groups have already started planning their involvement.

At the time of writing, a meeting is scheduled for 1 December, where progress will be reported and beginnings will take shape.

The next step will be the establishment of a 150th organising committee, with specialist subcommittees for things like finance, PR and events. These groups will offer the opportunity for many levels of involvement, both in early planning and activity in 2014 and throughout 2015.

2015, celebrating 150 years since becoming a community, will be a year long remembered in Bundanoon; 2014 will be the year we make it happen.

For further information contact Andrea Ward on 4883 7513 or andrea.ward@tonyward.org.

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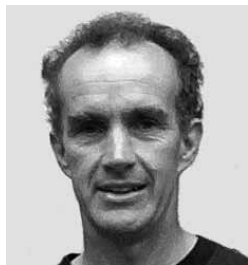
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Councillor Jim Clark

Vision for villages

GENERAL MANAGER JASON Gordon has left Wingecarribee Council, departing on mutually agreeable terms. He served for four years with Council, overseeing major changes within the organisation, as well as managing what has been a difficult newly elected council since 2012. Mr Gordon achieved much within this time;

I enjoyed a good working and personal relationship with him and wish him all the best in the future. Deputy General Manager Anne Prendergast will be a capable acting General Manager until the recruitment process for the position is complete.

It has been somewhat disturbing to find how little consultation took place over the proposed upgrade of the railway pedestrian crossing at Bundanoon. With such a large sum of money proposed to be spent by Transport for NSW on improvements to accessibility of the crossing, it should have been obvious Bundanoon Community Association and residents should have been allowed proper input into proposed works. Whilst Council does not have an approval role in the proposal, it does have a major interest in the final outcome and consultation with council's Access Committee, which deals with disability access, would also have been a sensible precaution. The improved safety of pedestrians using other existing road crossings over the railway also needs to be acted on urgently as part of any works.

With the early start to the bushfire season it was great to see the effective response to the fires in the northern parts of the Shire. We all rely on the vigilance of the Rural Fire Service and their many volunteers for our continued safety. It is concerning too, to see locally the number of roadside fires they have been called out to extinguish. Careless or deliberate lighting of fires can have devastating consequences, especially in extreme weather conditions.

By the time you read this the Wingecarribee Council's long-awaited and hard-won Moss Vale War Memorial Aquatic Centre should be operational following the official opening on 30 November. Also recently opened are the new workshop and meeting facilities at the Bundanoon Men's Shed. This is the result of hours of hard work by the local committee and members with the assistance of partial funding from council grants. These are great infrastructure projects designed to improve the lifestyle of the local community.

—Clr Jim Clark, ph 0428 213 939

Christine Miller
President

Bundanoon matters

THE BCA HAS been able to share with the Bundanoon community a number of achievements over recent months.

After some time, our new toilet block was opened on 22 October and it is a very welcome and important part of our village.

We have a temporary bus shelter in place while we work with Council for the finalisation of the new structure. This has taken longer than we had hoped; however, the current shelter provided is appreciated.

With the important celebration in 2015 of our 150th year since becoming a community, BCA welcomes a new sub-committee especially to co-ordinate the many and varied sesquicentenary celebrations that will take place during that year.

Garden Ramble was again a great success. With the shocking weather leading to the significant bush fires in October, so early in the year, the owners of the gardens offered for the Ramble were working hard to prepare their gardens against some harsh and unseasonal conditions. The number of visitors participating in the weekend was slightly down on last year, however, with some fires not far away, and significant and persistent fires elsewhere in the State, people were understandably staying close to home. Great work from the Garden Ramble sub-committee and friends!

Our second meeting for the year for the convenors of the BCA sub-committees was held on 1 October and was an opportunity for the introduction of some new ideas. Agreement was reached following good discussion on the night and feedback from members of sub-committees subsequently. Sincere thanks to the convenors for coming together with such good spirit and for taking the ideas to their committees and sharing how their group would 'give it a go'. One of the special things about our sub-committees is that members of our community are given the chance to do something they enjoy, which often results in benefit to Bundanoon.

A significant number of hours since the last report has been devoted to many in our community working with BCA and Transport for NSW to bring together a better outcome than the initial proposal for improved disability access in and around our railway station. We held a town meeting on 24 October which was very well attended and the following week a meeting at Parliament House, put in place by the Member for Goulburn, Pru Goward, resulted in a 'pause' in the planned schedule to commence work in October. My warm thanks to all who have put in hours, energy, words, ideas, support, commitment and focus which have all contributed to the people of Bundanoon again showing that Bundanoon matters.

Although not linked to BCA directly, the Camelbak Highland Fling held on the first weekend of November in and around Bundanoon was another example of how much can be achieved with energy, planning and a coming together of people with a common link.

As this is my last column for 2013 may I take this opportunity to thank the BCA Committee for their tireless efforts since March this year. Much has been achieved thanks to the convenors and the members of the sub-committees. We are often spoken of within the Shire as having a special energy and participation within our town. To all who are a part of the community, in whatever form that takes, sincere and genuine thanks for helping Bundanoon continue to matter to so many.

Health and happiness for the Festive Season and the New Year ahead.

BCA Catering Group...

...is seeking a new Convenor or Co-Convenor for 2014.

The group provides catering support for some of the BCA events as well as two to three external events each year (the Tango dance weekend, the Bushdance Festival weekend etc).

The Convenor has an organisational role and there is a very handy group of helpers who are experienced and adept in food prep, serving and clean up, so you have a crack team for support already in place. Service requirements are not too onerous, coffee/tea and cocktail style finger food events are our forte and a full commercial kitchen and our own equipment make life easy.

Monies raised over the past years have been returned to the Hall in the purchase of catering equipment to improve the facilities available.

If you are interested in either Convening or Co-Convening, please contact Bronwyn at: yallambee@hinet.net.au

a **BUNDANOON** *Country Christmas*

Stock up for special meals & parties

Both the Deli and the Butchery will have all your festive fare available. Both will provide produce at a higher quality (and taste) than available in the supermarkets 20–40 kilometres away in the 'big towns'. Don't forget the Liquor specials at The Pioneer Flask and all those extras at the Bundanoon Supermarket.

Anthony the Butcher will have the usual full range of meats – fresh and cured – available in abundance – but it's best to order his delicious hams. Phone: 4883 6319

Trudi at the Deli is taking orders for fresh Australian fish and seafood and hams (full leg, ½ leg and sliced). **If you place your order along with a deposit before 5pm on 9 December you will receive a 10% discount.** All orders for these close on 16 December. Trudi will also be offering traditional homemade mince pies and Christmas cakes as well as limited numbers of gluten free Christmas cakes and plum puddings (be quick for these). The Deli will also have a range of *Poachers Pantry Gourmet* smoked chicken and turkey, specialist teas, jams, chocolates, biscuits and other delectables.

Gift vouchers are great to fill the stocking, and fresh fruit trays and hampers can also be ordered as gifts or for picnics. Phone: 4883 6062

The Supermarket will be open all days except Christmas Day offering the usual lines of groceries and Grant reminds us not to forget the DVDs for hire to pass away the hours. If you are thinking instead about a bit of DIY, don't forget to pick up components. The shop will be open on Boxing Day for a limited period (10am–2pm, 5pm–7:30pm) to purchase the essentials you may have run out of. Phone: 4883 6633

The Pioneer Flask Cellars has a good range of wines, spirits and beers to suit all tastes, let them know in advance if there is something special you want them to obtain for you. There will also be Christmas Specials – so pop in and see what is on offer. Phone: 4883 7314



Late night shopping

All villagers, especially families, are invited to the main street of Bundanoon on Fridays in December. Santa will be around to chat to the children and hand out lollies, while most of the shops and cafes will remain open until 7:30pm to allow you more time to browse and shop and have a coffee or an early dinner. Buskers will provide entertainment and the Post Office will be open to receive letters to Santa.

Instead of formal portraits, this year we invite families to bring their own cameras and snap a few shots of kids/pets/grandma with Santa as he strolls along the main street. He loves having his photograph taken with families, just ask him.

What is on your Christmas list?

Read on and find out the incredible range available to you right here in our village.

Christmas Cards and Wrapping

Peter at the Bundanoon Newsagency has a good new range of cards and festive wraps and don't forget the Lotto gift cards. The newsagency will be open every day except Christmas Day. Phone: 4883 6181

Wendy at the Bundanoon Post Office advises it will be open on three Friday nights from 5:30pm–7:30pm to accept post for Santa's mail box, which will be inside the Post Office. Because Santa's little helpers are so busy all over the world, the box will only be there on these nights to collect Santa's mail. **Mail should be addressed to: Santa, The North Pole 79999. Parents – please ensure that the return address is on the back of the envelope, so that Santa can reply.**

Usual postal services will not be available during these extended hours. See below for a new range of gift lines available at the Post Office. Phone: 4883 6240

Beauty Treatments

Vicky at Bundanoon Cutting Cottage advises very early booking of appointments so you can look your best for the many and varied celebrations over the holiday period. The shop will be open late on Thursday evenings and on the two Mondays before Christmas Day. Phone: 4883 7798

Bundanoon Wellbeing Co is the latest opening on the main street. Nicola offers beauty treatments, pampering day packages, naturopathy, nutrition, Reiki, and a range of relaxation exercises to counter the stresses of modern day living. Phone: 0428 143 400

Gifts and Stocking Fillers

Wendy and Kirrili at the Bundanoon Post Office offer gifts made and written by Bundanoon residents: books for both children and adults, spinning tops, dinosaurs to build, bubble wands, baby and toddler wear by *Milk and Masuki* as well as knitted baby blankets, paintings, ceramics and delicate origami crane earrings and mobiles. There are also silk flower arrangements and wearable flowers made in Japanese fabrics that may be used as either a brooch or a hair ornament.

The Bundanoon Community Association and the main-street shopkeepers invite you to take the stress and hassle out of the pre-Christmas period by shopping locally. We are bringing back an old fashioned “country Christmas”, where you can shop late in a relaxed atmosphere, while listening to carols play in the street as you wander from shop to shop.

Nishnil at Bundanoon Pharmacy is spreading the joy with a **prescription price match guarantee**. So pop in and see what budget savings you can make. The friendly staffers are also available to advise you on gift ideas from their range of perfumes and Darrell Lee chocolates. Gift vouchers are also available. Phone: 4883 6301

Allan and Ian at the Bundanoon Bloomery encourage you to drop in and see what is on offer. All your plant and planting needs (trees, shrubs, perennials, potted colour, seedlings and seeds, mulch) are available and remember – all plants are sourced for the local conditions, an important factor in ensuring a sustainable garden.

They also have a **huge range of giftware both for the home and garden** and can supply gift vouchers for any amount you require (with 12 months to redeem the voucher). Phone: 4883 7859

Bruce at Bundanoon Pottery and Gallery offers exquisite **one off pieces of porcelain and pottery** all made on the premises by Bruce who has studied the Japanese masters. As a Christmas special, he has a stock of **Buddha heads for your garden for only \$29.50**. Phone: 4883 6453

Candice at Clarity2 has a great range of creative gifts and clothing including funky jewellery, handbags, watches, scarves, groovy shoes, gorgeous soft toys, candles, soft leather boots for babies as well as bandanna bibs! She also offers a great range of ladies' clothing that can be mixed and matched and layered for all seasons. Phone: 0447 852 885

Jacki, Andrew & Josh at Nest and Burrow advise that their shop is open 6 days a week (closed Tuesdays). They have a huge array of stock for babies, kids and adults. With a wide range of jewellery, watches, books, bath and body products, candles, kitchenware, calendars, unique lamps, toys and games and so much more, there is much to choose from. Some familiar brands include: Spode, Willowtree, Jim Shore, Peter Rabbit, Peppa Pig, Seedling, Robert Gordon, Red Tractor, plus many more. Gift certificates and complimentary gift wrapping are available.

If you come in to the shop and make a wish list and your family and friends shop from it, they will receive 10% off anything they buy from your list.

Phone: 4883 6146

The Volunteers at The Good Yarn invite us to inspect their stock for usual and unusual items to add a bit of difference to the shopping basket for presents, while supporting a range of charities. Phone: 4883 6542

Refreshments

Have a coffee or lunch (or light dinner on the Friday late night shopping nights) as a break from shopping

Peter at the Primula Cafe offers his large range from his menu including his delicious pizza. He will be open except on Christmas Day. Phone: 4883 6236

John and Jane at The Terrace Tea Shop invite you to escape the hustle and bustle of the Christmas rush, enjoy a home cooked meal, a freshly baked cake and choose from a wide range of teas, coffee and soft drinks. Phone: 4883 6354

Donna and Leah at Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe can cater for your Xmas party and the café can be hired for private functions or a backyard BBQ. Mini bus also available for the merry!

Also on hand are Christmas hampers and gift vouchers and a range of pressies for the keen cyclist. Picnic lunch and bike hire packages are available over the holidays. They also offer a variety of gift ideas including jewellery, craft, books, music and art made by our clever locals. Phone: 4883 6043

In addition the following venues offer evening meals. Please contact them to find out opening times and any special menus leading up to Christmas and New Year. **The Bundanoon Chinese Restaurant** (4883 6368), **The Bundanoon Club Bistro on the Green** (4883 6174), **The Bundanoon Hotel** (4883 6005) **Bundanoon Pizza and Pasta** (4883 7733), **Tree Tops Guesthouse** (4883 6372), and **The Ravensworth** (4883 6068).

What a choice! How lucky are we to have so much without having to travel along winding country roads with all that entails.

Are you looking for a new home?

On your leisure time over the holidays you might start thinking of moving house, either to buy or rent. If so, remember there are three real estate businesses keen to assist you. **Contact Highlands Rural Real Estate** (4883 6760), **Jordans Crossing Real Estate** (4883 6900), and **Todds Real Estate**. (4883 6744).

Open late on Fridays

The following shops and cafes will be open until at least 7:30pm on the first three Fridays in December:

Bundanoon Bloomery, Bundanoon Chinese Restaurant, Bundanoon Deli, Bundanoon Pizza and Pasta, Bundanoon Post Office (Santa letters and gifts only), Bundanoon Pottery and Gallery, Bundanoon Supermarket, Bundanoon Wellbeing, Clarity 2, Nest and Burrow, Pioneer Flask, Primula Café, The Good Yarn, The Terrace Tea Shop, Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe



Vet's casebook

by Ken Davidson BVSc (Hons)

No place like home

WHAT DO A saltwater crocodile and a duck have in common? 6/10 if you answered "they both live on land and water" but 10/10 if you knew that they both have an excellent integrated SAT-NAV system embedded in their brains.

The recent true story about a crocodile relocation from the Gulf of Carpentaria to the Queensland East coast made interesting reading. At the time of the relocation, the croc was implanted with a traceable chip. Amazingly, it took only a short time for the croc to swim several hundred kilometres back to its original home. This natural homing instinct has not, to my knowledge, been previously recognised in crocodiles.

Direct word of mouth evidence came to me in relation to the cutest duck SAT-NAV story I have ever heard. It centred on a Sturt basket-weaving weekend held in Mittagong. One of the participants was a lovely lady from Orange, NSW. She had to be lovely because she couldn't bear to part with her pet duck 'Jemima' for the weekend, so she brought her along, much to the delight of the other basket-weavers!

After the initial cuddles, 'Jemima' was deemed safe to wander around the beautiful Sturt gardens, eating the odd snail or two and generally doing what ducks like to do while the basket weaving got underway. At morning tea, with some consternation, Jemima was nowhere to be found. The basket weavers formed a search party, scouring not only the Sturt gardens but the surrounding Holt Farm. There was still no sign of Jemima. The mood changed from sombre to deep depression. Stories began to emerge of a family of foxes with a lair in The Holt, taking neighbouring poultry. The final reality of Jemima being taken by a fox had her poor owner (and most of her friends) in tears. The basket weaving workshop was in tatters as she left for the long drive home to Orange.

As the story goes, several hours later, there was an exuberant phone call to Sturt. When Jemima's owner pulled up at her cottage, there was an indignant web-footed girl on her doorstep, quite upset that she had to be kept waiting for her dinner! Her inbuilt navigation system took her straight over the Blue Mountains to her owner's doorstep.

Everyone knows about homing pigeons flying from countries afar, carrying messages. Other birds, like swallows, do annual migrations and return home each year. Now scientists are interested in how waterfowl, flying in their hundreds, can suddenly land on water at the same instant without crashing into each other. It is now recognised that they always land on a north-south axis. It would seem that magnetic north must play a part in their navigation.

There was a time when, if somebody did something stupid, they were called a "bird-brain." Quite inappropriate if the above stories are anything to go by!



Through Ross-coloured glasses

by Ross Armfield

The times they are a-changin'

THE RECENT HORRIFIC bushfires in the Blue Mountains, along with the accompanying graphic and spectacular news footage of the wild, wind-powered destruction, were so powerful and confronting that they were almost surreal. For ages we'd been hearing about 'fuel on the ground' and how NSW was a 'tinderbox' ready to burn but we don't seem to really appreciate the danger until an event breaks out. Thank goodness there are those people who do understand and, more importantly, are prepared to do something about it on our behalf.

In our garden we have a quite sizeable gum tree. Every time the wind blows the ground below it becomes littered with dry, dead sticks. It's a good wheelbarrow full of excellent kindling. What I can't get my head around is that after a few days I get another wheelbarrow full of kindling. This is the tree that just keeps on giving – like some arboreal version of the Magic Pudding. Every time the wind blows, another load descends. This really got me thinking. If all this material is coming from just one tree, imagine the hundreds of thousands, (millions?), of cubic metres of dry, aerated and stacked fuel just waiting there under the immense landscape of trees in our national parks, forests and native bushland areas. The mind boggles!

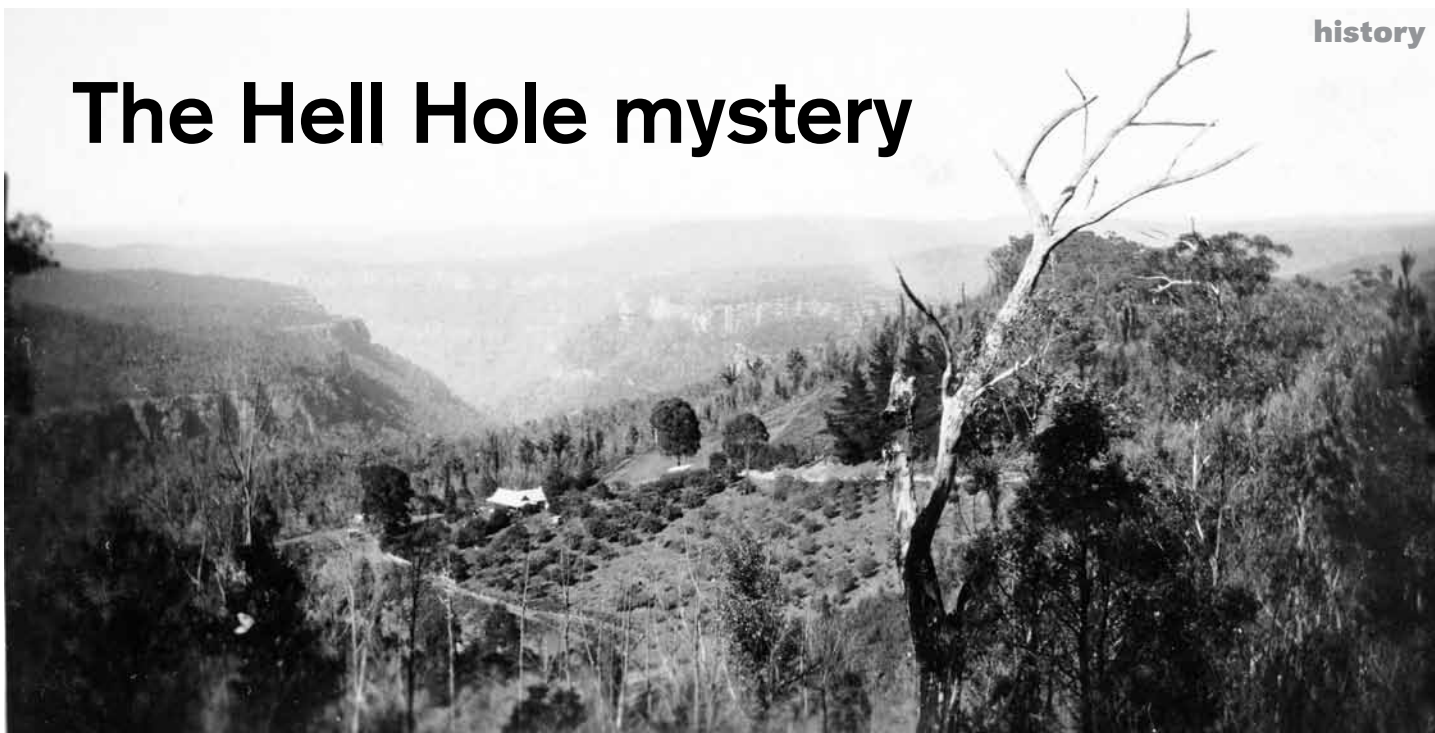
It is during such disasters as the recent bushfires that climate change issues are again brought into sharp focus. When these two are linked, many people cry that we have always had bushfires and always will. This is obviously true and the recent outbreaks were started by many things, including cigarette butts, Army munitions and possibly lightning. Climate change does not cause fires or floods or cyclones but over time sets up conditions, or weather patterns, where there is a greater likelihood of these natural disasters happening, with both greater frequency and intensity.

Some people say our climate has always been changing, so what's new? What's different is the **rate** of change. What once took place over many thousands of years is now occurring over decades and centuries. Why do so many people doubt the **vast majority** of climate scientists' advice but will quite rightly accept the advice of the majority of medical scientists when it comes to health issues? For the last decade or so the nightly news has been full of records being broken in regard to temperatures, storms, fires, floods and polar ice-cap melts. We ignore this at our peril. Not for us, now, but certainly for future generations.

One thing that doesn't change though is the fantastic work and energy of the people who give up their time, putting their own lives on hold, to train for and then deal with these events. Though not directly affected in our end of the shire in the recent fires, our brigades were supporting others while maintaining the preparedness to protect us if needed – as they do in the safe times as well.

Our local crews deserve all the support we can give them, financially and with human resources. We can all contribute by heeding the advice they offer. Bell, Bilpin, Balmoral today, Bundanoon tomorrow? We live in a very beautiful but fire-prone part of the country. The least we can do for the people who are prepared to put their lives at great risk to protect us is to assist them in any way we can.

The Hell Hole mystery



IT IS A place not easily stumbled upon, at face value easily forgotten. There's very little evidence of human habitation left at Hell Hole; a few lumps of rusted metal and sheets of corrugated iron, a caved-in water tank, several pine trees and the remnants of stone retaining walls.

Once an orchard grew on these slopes, facing tall sandstone cliffs across the airy void of the valley. A small, sturdy house with a timber floor and a chimney of handmade bricks sat beneath the ridge, surrounded by sunny lawns. Daffodils grew and radiata pines stood watch over an English garden terraced into the hillside. There must have been horses for transport into town, a formidable distance measured in hoof beats, and cows for milk. There must have been

laughter, shouting, the ring of metal and wood.

But at night, when everyone slept, when the high, cold moon bathed Hell Hole in lunar blue, there was something else. The bush was pressing in.

Eventually, inevitably, life left Hell Hole. Perhaps it was too far to town, the track too rough, the soil too poor and unproductive. Perhaps the smoky, insidious threat of bushfire became too difficult to ignore. Whatever the reason, the house, standing empty, fell into disrepair, and the plants began to grow wild. People still visited sometimes, to picnic on the shrinking lawns, watch the great python sleeping on the warm iron roof, or take the spoils of what had once been someone's home. The handmade brick

chimney was carted away up a track that was becoming increasingly rough and washed out. More and more the house was left to itself, until finally fire destroyed the shell and the bush reclaimed its own.

Hell Hole is now little more than a reminder of human impermanence. A pile of stones hints at the pulley system used for timber cut nearby. Arum lilies, fair and noxious, lurk beneath native rainforest trees where the English garden used to be. They long ago presided over its funeral and now they too are going, vanquished at the hands of a few enthusiastic weeders. Almost no one else visits. There are no views, no pleasant places to picnic, just ghostly, insubstantial memories. This is all that's left – a fragment of Bundanoon's history.

—Maeve Clark

New history display: fun and games

BUNDANOON MAY BE a small town, but it has always excelled in sports and community activities. Cricket was the earliest organised sport in Bundanoon and was well established by the 1880s. Cross-dressing and fancy dress cricket matches were very popular. Hockey was also a very popular sport, but Bundanoon no longer has a team. Bundanoon used to have its own golf courses, two rifle ranges and a horse racing course. Some history of these and other popular sports are on display.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, family picnics and walks in the national park were a regular event. The boronia flower grew abundantly in the park, but is now very hard to find. Bundanoon used to hold an annual Boronia Festival in October, to celebrate the blooming of these sweet smelling flowers. In 1978, the first Highland Gathering replaced this festival.

Over the years, there have been other community activities that no longer take place, including horseshoe pitching championships, billy cart racing and hay cart rides.

The new exhibition has a large display of photographs, posters, artefacts and trophies relating to various sports and community events from the late 1800s until the present day.



The exhibition starts on 1 December in the Old Goods Shed and is open each Market Day Sunday from 9:30am – 2:30pm. It will continue into 2014.

—Beryl Seckington



Christmas comes to The Bundanoon Club

Raffles

Our toy raffle is on again. Lots of toys to be raffled on Sunday 22 December at 2.00pm. Tickets will be on sale at the bar from our Christmas elves.

On Friday 20 December after the meat raffle we will have our members' draw for \$500. This must be won so we will be calling badge numbers till it is. Be there to claim the money if your number comes up.

Regular Activities

Monday: Bingo starts at 11.00am with cash prizes!

Wednesday: Darts, poker, badge draw, meat raffle and Jokers Wild. From 6.00pm

Friday: Badge draw and meat raffle from 6.00pm

Bistro on the Green

Have you been to the Club and tried out the menu? Come along and enjoy a variety of great food.

Bistro on the Green is open Wednesday to Saturday evenings from 6.00pm.

- The club will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but open all other days.
- Bingo will break from 23/12/13 – 20/1/14
- Ladies' bowls will break from 18/12/13 – 15/01/14
- Men's bowls and croquet continue as usual.



Our Australia Day cricket match is on again.

The BBQ will be going all day, plus bowls and croquet. Something for all the family. Come along for a couple of hours or all day.

The directors and staff would like to wish all our members and friends a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

ph 4883 6174

Thank you

BUNDANOON IS SOMETIMES said to be a place in the heart and for me, this year, it has been proved.

During Neville's illness, we were supported physically and emotionally, and since his death, I have been overwhelmed by this continued support and messages of condolence from within the Bundanoon community.

Without this support, I would have found it so much more difficult to continue at Idle A Wile alone but with it, I have been strengthened. I want the community to know how much I appreciate all the support I have received from them. Thank you.

—Stefan Ivanow, Idle A Wile

An important reminder

REPORTING CRIME IS the responsibility of us all within the community. Police will always work to reduce crime and bring offenders to justice but as members of the community it is the responsibility of every person to report crime or suspicious behaviour to police. Always report suspicious/criminal activities via any of the methods listed below but never place yourself in a vulnerable or dangerous situation in doing so. By working together we can enhance and protect our community and the lifestyles we enjoy.

There are four ways to report crime to police in NSW, depending on the nature of the information:

000 – 000 can connect you to Police, Fire or Ambulance, depending on your situation. Only dial this number if you want to report a crime in progress or if it is a life-threatening situation.

Local police station – You can call or visit your local police station at any time to report a crime.

131 444 – Police Assistance Line – You can call PAL to report minor crimes that have already been committed (crimes that are not in progress) and which do not involve traumatised victims or requires urgent attention or attendance. When you ring PAL, specially trained Customer Service Representatives will take the details of the crime, and make them available to local police through the police computer system for analysis and action if required.

1800 333 000 – Crime Stoppers – If you have information about a crime or criminal behaviour, then call Crime Stoppers on this toll free number. Crime Stoppers uses information that members of the public provide to solve crimes and catch offenders. You are guaranteed anonymity and confidentiality and, if your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a reward.



REMEMBER THE GREENGROCCERS and Yellow Mondays we all caught as kids? These are different colour forms of our familiar cicada, the black and orange Masked Devil, *Cyclochila australasiae* (form *spreti*).

This variant is more common in the cooler, mountainous areas of the state such as Bundanoon (although the other forms are also present). If you hadn't noticed your backyard almost perforated with 20mm holes, the hundreds of shells (exuviae) on tree trunks, telegraph poles or any other above-ground surface – or the insects themselves – then the sound they produce will certainly have imposed its presence.

If you find this cacophony uncomfortable (only the male sings) it is because – as cicada expert Max Moulds writes – 'At close range the volume approaches 120 decibels, nearing the pain threshold of the human ear'. He goes on to note that the sound is 'so penetrating' because 'it is a relatively pure tone... at the centre of our best hearing range'. It may be a small consolation to know that the 'singing' does not begin until the temperature reaches approximately 18.5 degrees Celsius. Why have we had this mass emergence in October? In Bundanoon, large numbers of this cicada emerged in 2003 and again in 2010. With an underground life-cycle of 6–7 years, I therefore expected the next major phenomenon to occur in about 2017. However, there can be overlapping generations and Martin Robinson from the Australian Museum's 'Search and

Discover' explains that warmer weather accelerates the insect's development such that they have shorter life cycles. For example, a series of relatively warm winters and early springs can influence faster growth and earlier maturity. The converse is also true, with cold winters and late springs conducive to longer life cycles.

After emergence from their subterranean burrows, some specimens seem to be malformed, even dying in the final skin. Hot winds can cause dehydration, resulting in their wings not expanding or the insects not able to fully shed their nymphal skins. Other hazards faced by adult cicadas during their nominal 5–6 weeks above-ground life spans include the predator wasp (*Exeirus lateritius*), birds (if they can tolerate the noise) and human interaction such as cars, schoolboys and surface paving. A new generation of nymphs burrowing into clear ground, then years later attempting emergence only to encounter impenetrable barriers such as new concrete foundations, must be the ultimate sad irony.

Our Masked Devil (with its other forms) is just one of over 200 cicada species found in Australia. Allied to plant bugs, it is a benign creature with a charm and beauty of its own. Its song may irritate but I for one find it a reassuring and happy sound, a reminder of summers long past, as characteristically nostalgic as ice cream, sun cream and sunburn.

—Alan Hyman

The fun of the Fling

IT WAS THE younger generation of riders that kicked off events – rolling over logs, carving up corners and generally having a great time learning new skills with the Ben Mikic Foundation.

Once again there were all shapes, ages and wheel sizes lined up for the **Rolloff World Championships** and in the local **Battle of the Businesses** Bundanoon Pottery's Nick Smith blitzed the course, hot on the wheels of the elite riders to finish first in the Battle and an impressive 15th overall.

On Sunday, the big day of racing included **The 2013 CamelBak Highland Fling**: 110 km Full Fling, 55km Half Fling and 100 Mile Fling, the **Casual Fling** untimed 15km course for more social riders and **Todd's Real Estate Kids Fling** for kids aged 5 to 12.

The success of the day was due to many locals and members of community groups

who supported the event.

President of BCA, Christine Miller reported to the November meeting that again this year the Community Garden supplied vegetables and salad for a number of groups to feed the riders over the weekend. The waste was sorted on Sunday and food waste collected for community garden compost.

As well as this the town of Bundanoon and the other southern villages got right behind the Fling. Bundanoon Rebels Soccer Club provided superb catering and support was given by Bundanoon Highlanders Rugby Club, Bundanoon, Exeter and Wingello School P&C's, the local RFS Brigades, Bundanoon Pony Club and Bundanoon Men's Shed in their different ways. All contributed to the success of the day. Collectively local groups raised some \$40,000 for local community projects. A great success all round!



Year ends on a dramatic high

WHAT A FANTASTIC day of live theatre we had provided for us when the Soldiers' Memorial Hall in Bundanoon played host to our first ever Crash Test Drama Bundanoon – Gala Final.

We had a magnificent roll up, with the actors playing to an enthusiastic and appreciative audience. And many thanks to Will Sheehan, who came down from Sydney to be our judge for the day.

The results:

Best Play by judge's vote: *DV* – by Gillian Brennan
Best Play by audience vote: *DV* – by Gillian Brennan
Best Actress: Lorelei Tait in *DV*
Best Actor: Richard Bosley-Craft in *The Real Thing*
Best Director: Gillian Brennan – *DV*

The audience vote for the top three plays came in as follows:
DV – 79

That Sinking Feeling – 69

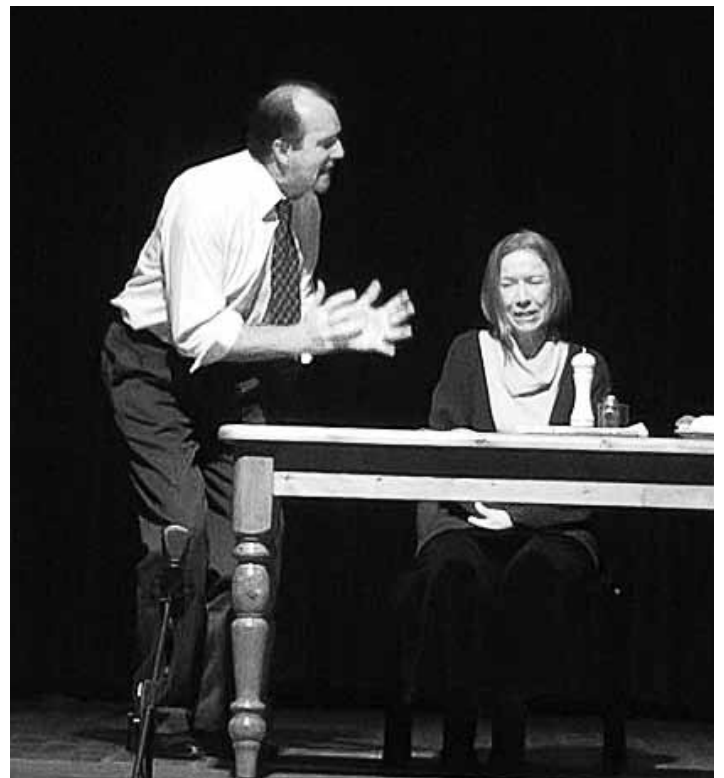
Chucked Out – 54

Given that the best play by the judge's choice and audience vote were the same, the judge selected *Chucked Out*, by Jan Kenny as his second choice. Therefore both *DV* and *Chucked Out* are now direct entries into the 2014 Sydney season of Short+Sweet festival: www.shortandsweet.org/sydney in association with Theatre for All. The plays will also be afforded the opportunity to be adapted for radio, recorded and uploaded as podcasts onto the Theatre for All website.

We have almost settled on the five dates in 2014, when we will again run four Crash Test Drama events and culminate with a Gala Final planned currently for November next year. But for now, could I encourage our writers to start penning those stories and start delivering them to me, to put into the melting pot ahead of the first event which will be staged in February 2014 – so lots of time to write a raft of stories. And for those aspirant writers not quite sure how to start, it's worth noting that Theatre For All run a weekly writers' workshop and this is as good a place to start as any. If you would like further details, let me know and I'll connect you with the right person.

But that's just about it for 2013. Thank you to everyone involved in our first year. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of seeing live theatre at the grass roots level come to life, and it appears that a great many others have as well.

—Pat Brennan, CTD Bundanoon coordinator, 4883 7831



Pat Brennan and Lorelei Tait perform in the winning play, *DV* by Gillian Brennan

Ed Note: For readers of *jcg* who have not attended any of the CTD performances there will be information from time to time in the magazine but please contact Pat Brennan if you would like dates for 2014. Crash Test Drama is providing another dimension to activities in Bundanoon and they always welcome new talent – writers, directors and actors. Congratulations to all involved in the Gala Final. We are looking forward to next year's productions.



Bundanoon observer

by Stephen Owens

It's about time

FAR BE IT from me to call a spanner anything other than a wrench. I baulk at the word 'shifter' or any of those terms that you see in Bunnings, such as 'tensioning device' and the like. I try to keep things simple. Actually the simpler things are the happier I become. Now when it comes to having fun I believe the more fun you have the longer you will live and you are fun to be around. Simple philosophy but it seems to work; so far so good.

I developed this theory early on in life having spent many hours lying on a beach within reach of a container or two of amber fluid or a goblet of red, for medicinal purposes only of course. This medication helped me answer the fundamental question: "Why are we here?" The answer is obvious: "Because we are!", so we might as well enjoy ourselves.

Now I like having fun as much as the next person but, unfortunately for me the next person is my mate Gerald. My mate Gerald believes that having fun is bad for your health and too much of it will shorten your life. Before elaborating further I think you should know a little about my mate Gerald. Theories of the conspiratorial variety are his stock in trade. Elvis is not dead but works in the Pizza Hut at Singleton where Gerald has seen him many times. He has put on a lot of weight, surprise, surprise. Gerald is prepared to swear on a stack of pizza bases that this is true. As far as the grassy knoll is concerned there was not one gunman but a whole platoon of marines and Gerald has a list of their names, rank and serial numbers. The same goes for the moon landing filmed on a back lot in Hollywood. He is also a paid up member of the Flat Earth Society.

Gerald likes using Murphy's Law of selective gravity to drop a spanner, or wrench, from a great height into simple theories on anything and making them so convoluted that they make little sense. You get the picture.

His theory on having fun, or not, goes something like this: When having fun time goes very quickly so the more fun you have the faster time goes, thus robbing you of a long life. However when you are not having fun or you anticipate fun sometime in the future, time seems to slow almost to a standstill thus giving you a long life and a longer one if you avoid the fun in the first place. Gerald's aim in life is to live forever or die in the attempt. Good luck.

Like most of his theories there is a fundamental flaw. I pointed out to him that his argument is an illusion as the passage of time is linear, just look at a clock. He does not look at the clock but at me with disdain and says I am a fool to myself and a danger to the community at large because timepieces are a conspiracy by the Swiss to distract us from the real nature of time as he has described. The Swiss should have stuck to what they were good at, making army knives and chocolate. I have learned to listen, then to ignore, because having fun works for me. The paradox is that Gerald has fun

by trying to wind people up and he has a lot more fun than he cares to admit.

Fun people are great to be around and you can't help but enjoy yourself in their company. If there is a party on then pencil me in because I am up for it – as long as you don't invite Gerald.



Our horticultural heritage



EVER SINCE THE colonisation of the Southern Highlands area, settlers have realised that the high altitude and cooler climate would be perfect for growing the old favourites found in the gardens of their British homeland.

So they set to work to create a 'little Britain' right here, planting the stately Scottish pine so loved by Queen Victoria, Lombardy poplar, English oak, maple, ash, alder, beech, birch, cedar, elm, cypress, fir and many hedging plants such as hawthorn, cherry laurel, holly and cotoneaster.

As a result, today we have inherited a landscape reminiscent of the British countryside where cattle and sheep graze comfortably on green hills and valleys surrounded by magnificent conifer windbreaks. The towns and hamlets around are unique to the Australian countryside, with autumn foliage and spring blossom contrasting beautifully with eucalypt and native flora.

The Macarthur family built a fine house, 'Camden Park', and there William, son of John, introduced many exotic plants from around the world. The nursery established at Camden Park had a significant impact on the first gardens of the Southern Highlands, as many of the first plants for this area came from there.

Having moved to Bundanoon from the area of Port Stephens NSW in 2012, I've been amazed and delighted by the extraordinary beauty of trees and gardens in this area.

It's not hard to see why Bundanoon, this quietly modest small town, weaves a magic spell over visitors from everywhere with its ever-changing flora.

Whether it's Autumn or Spring or even Summer (we will not mention Winter!), there is always something happening horticulturally to delight even the most jaded eye.

It's hard to decide between Autumn and Spring in Bundanoon – they're both magnificent. Autumn is a real delight with so many European and North American deciduous trees such as maples and pin-oaks glowing in an explosion of red, yellow, purple and every shade in between, especially along Railway Parade.

But, that having been said, Spring in Bundanoon is perhaps even more ravishing as it bursts forth with a million blossoms – the double flowered cherry blossom trees lining Anzac Parade are an absolute joy to behold. Elsewhere, on almost every street we find plum, apple and almond blossom, dogwood, crabapple, rhododendron, magnolia, lilac, viburnum, maybush, daffodil, tulip and bluebell – to name just a few.

In Summer, my scarlet leafed, autumnal Japanese maple is transformed to brilliant lime. The liquidambars along the length of Railway Parade burst magically into green sun-umbrellas. In many home gardens the enchanting blues and mauves of the hydrangea remind us that Christmas is not far away.

Thomas Shepherd, the first professional gardener to work in the Colony of NSW published some notes in 1836. He wrote (a little patronisingly perhaps): "Although New South Wales does not possess all the capabilities of Britain for landscape gardening, yet in many particulars Australia possesses as many capabilities of a superior order as the Mother Country and some also which Britain does not possess."

I heartily concur.

—Jill Lovett (Hort Cert), Garden writer for the Southern Highlands News

Word play

ALAN OLSEN GETS his kicks out of words, particularly if those words represent numbers: The 1st 2nd that 3rd rater from the 4th estate ordered a 5th of scotch, my 6th sense told me that 7th heaven was about as far away as an 8th note in Beethoven's 9th so, nervous as a 10th grader cramming at the 11th hour, I started humming The 12th of Never and got lucky on Friday the 13th.

Why is it that the Scots host all the eat feats, the competitive eating contests and challenges? At Fife in the Scottish Lowlands, the eat feat involves the consumption of tench or doctor fish. At the end of a long day of competition, local boy Hicks was up against a Swede in the final, best of five sets. The local lad won the first three sets, game over, but his opponent did not go away hungry. Astute readers will be way ahead of me on the report the following morning on www.fifetoday.co.uk: One to three for Fife's Hicks, Sven ate nine tench.

Of course, if the words are not about numbers, then what about something hifalutin like science? Two years ago, Italian scientists

mistakenly observed small particles called neutrinos appearing to travel faster than light. Before the error could be corrected: The barman says "we don't serve your type in here". A neutrino walks into a bar.

The same pub conducts English lessons, teaching us about figures of speech such as puns, metaphors, oxymorons and tautologies: A tautology involves unnecessarily repeating the same thing more than once, as in separating two players apart, or, perhaps more subtly, mature, sophisticated, intelligent resident of Bundanoon.

Much tautology comes from the sporting field, for example, he hit it through a vacant gap at mid-on, it's always the last pass that goes to ground or, in southern Australia, football is a game of four equal quarters. For those of us born within the shadow of Sydney Harbour Bridge, it is sadly a tautology that Norths played badly.

But recently retired Manchester United governor Sir Alex Ferguson has taken out 2013 tautology of the year with *My Autobiography*.

short story

Ruthless downsizing

'WHY DON'T YOU put it on Ebay?'

'Er ... no.'

'Genuine antique, Mum. Excellent condition. Pretty flowers.

Multitude of uses.'

'Bin it.'

'How about an aspidistra in it, in the sunroom?'

'No way! Your kids want it?'

'Ya gotta be kidding!'

So Grandma's 'gazunda' goes into the bin.

'What next?' asks my daughter.

'If you haven't worn things for a year, ditch 'em!' say the fashion gurus, so out go two lovely panama straw hats. They haven't seen daylight for over 25 years, anyway, so I'm not grieving ... much ... they were *very* expensive ...

'Be ruthless!' is the downsizer's mantra so out go trophies from past vocal competitions, half a dozen tea strainers rendered obsolete by teabags, an electric carving knife which flies apart the moment it touches meat, grandma's huge mixing bowl, her equally huge, blunt carving knife, and a framed photo of a little boy with long curls, an unidentified ancestor in a velvet suit. I whisper an apology to my long-dead parents. My next residence will be 'compact', I explain, so I have to be ruthless. I throw out half-finished knitting projects, iceblock trays from long-dead fridges, and suspect thermos flasks. I don't need three red handbags. My daughter grabs her grandfather's draftsman's ruler, the one on rollers, which I loved to play with as a child. I give it to her gladly, realising she'll probably never use it, but it will no longer be in *my* house. I have been satisfyingly ruthless.

I throw out things ancient and things modern, cheap jewellery, shoes with non-functioning velcro straps, powder puffs stuck to chiffon scarves. They are clogging up my space. I have to get rid of clutter. I have to be ruthless.

In the dark recesses of cupboards I uncover treasures lovingly put there by my late husband all those years ago, things like a lifetime supply of loose shoelaces, neither wrapped nor labelled, and a massive bag full of shoe-cleaning brushes, pastes, liquids and cloths. His generation discarded nothing. To these items, over the years, I've added such things as boxes of curtain hooks and wooden curtain



rings, reasoning that someone might have a use for them – one day. Now they all must go, cast into the bin with enthusiasm, with ruthlessness.

Ruthless still, I give the Sallies the second refrigerator, and my mother's bedroom chair: it was hardly ever used, anyway, because it had a forward sloping seat, upholstered in slippery brocade. Once again, I silently apologise to my mother.

Remember when we were all buying that square white crockery? I give mine to my daughter, who welcomes the gift. It hurts, but I am glorying in my ruthlessness.

Operation Pantry resembles an archaeological dig. How faithfully *are* you meant to adhere to those use-by dates? Perhaps I should have started being ruthless a decade ago, at least in the pantry.

Why all this heartache? I mean... fun? Fifteen years ago my husband and I moved to Bundanoon, combining the contents of four separate residences into the one building. He used to say, 'Keep that. Might get time to fix that... one day. And those things might come in handy... one day.' Of course, 'one day' never came.

The cat and I recently decided to 'downsize' the house and contents and now I'm amazed at what I can live without, proof that a person can have too many Things.

Now... can I bear to throw out my mother's gold-painted wedding shoes, all those elbow-length gloves, and greatgrandma's bloomers, the ones that are so oddly constructed?

What's that, my dear young reader? You're not familiar with 'gazundas'? What a shame! They *were* fun!

—Margaret Symonds



Highland Fling photos courtesy GiRo Photos



Just for fun



SOME TALENTED AND creative people living in Bundanoon use their skills to produce income but there are others in the community who claim they "do it just for fun!"

The random selection of people featured in the following pages all love what they do in their leisure time. Local mountain bike riders and children participated in the recent CamelBak Highland Fling events as the sport grows in popularity in the southern end of the shire (see page 21). They regularly ride the tracks in our area. The children from Bundanoon Public School are shown performing at their annual concert and it is obvious from the photographs that these confident children have great fun on stage. Graeme Whisker, Philip Walker and Robert Henderson find great enjoyment in their leisure activities and although Keith McMenemy claims he

builds in stone 'for the fun of it', the physical effort would be a deterrent for most people. Serendipity choristers love to sing, Max Bettridge loves to cook, and Geraldine and David Woods find that filling their house from time to time with Japanese students "keeps them young".





How does Graeme's garden grow?



'Alfred de Dalmas' (moss rose)

GRAEME WHISKER HAS a passion and that is his garden. This love affair began as a young child growing up in New Zealand. His grandfather's two-acre property in Christchurch (commonly referred to as the Garden City) provided his greatest inspiration followed by his parents. The culmination of a lifetime is the beautiful one-acre garden he has established over the last 12 years here in Bundanoon. I was fortunate enough to have a guided tour.

As he matured so did his love of plants and wherever Graeme's lived he's created a garden. His immense horticultural knowledge has come from talking to nurserymen, other passionate gardeners, his huge library of gardening books and the internet. The discovery of heritage roses, particularly those that have been left to grow wild in cemeteries, has led to a life-long interest in rare and forgotten plants. Whenever he hears of a new and rare plant, Graeme will research it and, if possible, find a way to purchase it. Walking through his beautiful garden I discovered old-fashioned roses looking very fierce with stems thickly covered with thorns, most unlike the more modern varieties! I was also introduced to the Moss Rose which is very unusual indeed. Moss Roses also belong

to the class of 'Old Garden Rose' and are distinguished by green, mossy-looking growth on the sepals of the bud and the calyx.

Graeme has never forgotten his Kiwi background so his other passion is the many varieties of NZ trees which he has planted, including the Rimu (a conifer prized for making furniture), the Kowhai, Lancewoods (including the rare toothed variety) and the Kawaka, a conifer with flattened sprays. Conifers rate highly with Graeme, and one recent purchase especially excited him – a conifer with bright pink new growth that he was able to source from a Tasmanian nursery.

I loved Graeme's garden. I almost forgot that it entirely surrounds his house, as my eyes were drawn to the garden and the house almost disappeared, its role purely secondary. For Graeme it is a joy sharing his garden with visitors and explaining his plant choices. For a plant to be allowed a space in Graeme's garden it must have at least two worthy characteristics, not just a beautiful flower but perhaps interesting foliage, form or size. If it doesn't, then it is not for him.

The garden showcases trees (birches, conifers, dogwoods) and shrubs (hydrangeas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias) with masses of hellebores, bulbs such as



bluebells, daffodils and irises growing amongst them – there are no beds of annuals. It is a no-dig garden and although the original soil wasn't good quality or easy to work, Graeme has transformed it through sheer doggedness and the result has been a monumental success. He prefers a free-form garden to a traditional manicured garden with immaculate borders. What I liked most about the garden is that you can't see the whole garden when standing in one position; there are paths inviting you to wander and discover.

Australian Quarantine – with the best of intentions – has limited access to exotic plants from overseas, leading to a possibility of interbreeding in the future. As an enthusiast of rare and old plants this is of concern to Graeme. Hopefully, going forward, a safe way to import plants without the fear of importing disease will be found.

Graeme is also an avid visitor of other people's gardens especially through his position as Selector for Open Gardens Australia. There is always something to inspire him, always something to learn. He is a member of the Bundanoon Garden Club and the Highlands Garden Society.

Graeme has created a garden that gives

him much joy and personal satisfaction but it's not his only interest. He is a member of the *Serendipity: the choir*, a fellow

contributor to *jcg*, he loves walking his beautiful Gordon Setters, riding his bike and reading fiction.

—Sandy McKenzie



Bring a plate – not a problem!

MAX BETTTRIDGE IS an intuitive cook. He loves talking about food, he likes to eat and has a talent for experimenting with ingredients. He says "If I have spinach in the garden I throw a little oil or butter into a pan, add the chopped leaves, garlic and salt and pepper and when it has wilted perhaps add some grated lemon zest and it's ready to serve as an accompaniment for steak, chicken or fish. – Leftovers? Add fetta for spinach and fetta triangles, or make a creamy spinach soup. "When I have ingredients I want to use up, I often go to the internet for inspiration and modify recipes if I want to change the flavours." Max has established a reputation for profiteroles and his choc-on-choc cake.

Cooking is not Max's only accomplishment. Forty years ago he began making model ships (galleons) when he was given an inexpensive kit and over the years he has progressed to producing prize-winning models. This interest helped him through the years he spent living at Yerrinbool when his first wife became chronically ill. His recent entry in a Shipwrights Association exhibition of 160 models won second prize for People's Choice at the Canberra Arts Centre. On 2nd November this year his model of "Royal William" (1719) was chosen as People's Choice at the Sydney Model Shipbuilders Club Model Expo 2013. This includes his name being added to the "Leon Griffiths Shield" - in his opinion, a great honour.

Max is now working on a model wharf for a ship that he began constructing in 1996. Complete with a saw-pit, storage sheds and cranes with treadmill, it is 1.3 metres long. His challenge with this model includes finding suitable material to make tiny sacks of grain for loading on to his galleon.

Max lived in Bundanoon when his children were at school. He and his wife Luena came to live here when they built a house and established a garden which he describes as architectural in form.

They are both members of Holy Trinity congregation and through the Church Max has become part of a group called Men at Shop. They meet weekly at the Bike Shop for coffee and companionship. Visits have also been arranged to men living in Harbison Village, who may not have family to visit them.

So, "no time for standing" for this retiree who has no shortage of creative activities.

—PD





Building in stone – just for fun

RETIREMENT CAN BRING delightful surprises. The secret it seems to me is to exit early determined to make it your best chapter. At last we have an opportunity to step back and retrieve hobbies or enthusiasms squeezed into spare time. Of course this depends to some extent on having enough energy and retirement package left to carry you. But given this, your inclination and health, one can find contentment – even bliss!

One of the real delights in dropping out or retiring is the discovery of things you'll do joyfully for nothing. Well, we don't do things for absolutely nothing, because our return is satisfaction. As well, it is also no small pleasure *not to be supervised*: not to have someone saying "hurry up, we don't quite like it, do it again this way – how much do you charge, how high will you jump?"

Doing something with a delightful outcome requires autonomy rather than what we scorn as selfishness. After a commercial career trying to satisfy clients and committees I now have a great affection for working in some isolation. My enjoyable "work" is neither fashionable nor important but it involves a creative element. In management practice this is often a first casualty.

For me, rediscovering simple joie-de-vivre has been achieved on a hobby farm. But possibly that is because I grew up in the suburbs. (Singers want to be dancers!) So the location is probably not as important as we think, for blissful occupation can be found nurturing a garden, pottering in a shed, admiring nature, riding a horse or bike, giving time to charity or community. For blokes this sometimes involves getting hands dirty, making, fixing, creating or building. A satisfying by-product of activity for fun is to slow down which is very difficult to achieve in the urban rush. By doing so we can rediscover in the process of doing things well an essence of existence.

Admittedly, at times one can take this notion of getting back to basics too far. About three years ago I rhapsodized in *jcg* about the beauty and timelessness of stone buildings. Then came my little project which is little more than a bed-sit for guests. Given that I am old enough to be a building inspector's grandfather, it is scaled to suit and just as well, because lifting Bundanoon sandstone for a year and a half did test this work/pleasure theory.

The secret is to focus – take one stage at a time – while reviewing how the elements have to combine. I enjoyed drawing the simple plan and elevations as much as seeing the walls rise. I learnt to utilise simple mechanics, leverage and ramps to lift heavy weights without excessive strain. I got to read the stones for weight, balance



and grain, contrasting size, laying them to exploit gravity – biggest at the base, smaller towards the top as the rough courses rise. Incorporating brick at corners and opening surrounds merged random boulders and rubble into precise walling. And so it went. The chimney was topped off – what a joy! The roof was framed, then sheeted and trimmed. Incorporating the go-slow idea, along with frequent rests and tea breaks, brought various aspects together with a great deal of satisfaction.

The result is actually still a work in slow progress. But in the last month or so, after time spent on a more urgent task I have returned to our little cottage out the back. As you might glimpse from the pictures, we are almost up to lock-up stage with power and light. There is some finishing and interior fit-out to go and most of this I can handle with the exception of plumbing. So, this is

a small-time folly of sorts, a compromise to a limited extent as some money has been involved. But what joy it gives to come across the rise towards home and see the cheery chimney through the trees.

—Keith McMenomy



Nippon down to the farm

GERALDINE AND DAVID Woods at Tallong are one of around 70 Highlands families engaged in a quaint cottage industry – giggling Japanese schoolgirls. And they wouldn't have it any other way.

Two years ago they joined a cultural exchange scheme run by Downunder Farmstays (downunderfarmstays.com.au) under which they host groups of three 16- or 17-year-old high school girls for three days and two nights at a time – although they have had one group of boys.

Their task is to immerse their charges in Aussie culture – helping out on their 25-acre farm with chores like feeding the cattle, a bit of fencing or collecting eggs from the chook yard. And making scones and damper and, of course, cooking up a storm on the BBQ. Geraldine makes sure Shepherd's Pie is always on the menu one night.

There are trips to other farms where the girls might see sheep, horses or a litter of new-born puppies and to the Morton National Park to see the local flora and fauna.

To date Geraldine and David have hosted 14 groups and they say there is a need for more families to join the scheme which reimburses families for their costs.

"It's a lot of fun, they are great guests to have in the house," says David. "They giggle a lot but they are polite, friendly and fun-loving."

"People with young families get a lot out of it. These kids adore small children, that's where the cultural exchange shines most brightly."

Hosts must speak English to the girls but they do pick up a smattering of "survival Japanese" with phrases like "please pass the mustard" and "you're very welcome".

"The girls' English is limited but I think they are embarrassed to make a mistake. Their written English is excellent," says David.

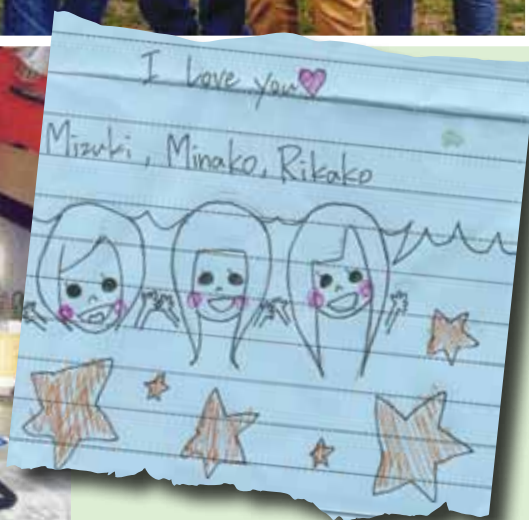
The process starts when up to 140 students arrive at the Bong Bong racecourse hall and are introduced to their host families. "They are very shy at that stage, full of trepidation" says David. "It's a very different story when they are returned – there are tears, laughter and hugs. They are sorry to leave and want to come back."

There is always a gift from each girl on arrival – perhaps a beautifully crafted chopstick set or traditional Japanese art – and Geraldine and David respond with an Aussie flag or such.

Then there is the stream of hand-decorated "thank you" cards in the mail from the girls and their families.

The lady of the house, Geraldine, has the last word: "It makes me feel young".

—Harvey Grennan





Jane and Ken infinitely prefer singing to playing the kazoo

Singing with Serendipity

Tutti (all together now)

I ONCE CONDUCTED a church choir for a season. I don't know what I was thinking – I don't play a musical instrument, I can't read music and I had to take lessons in how to beat in time!

But now I have the wonderful opportunity to sing with *Serendipity: the choir*, with a conductor in Kerith who knows all those things I didn't know, and much, much more besides. When I started with *Serendipity* I was not at all confident in my ability or contribution, but Kerith and Ann seemed to be happy for me to join. I would like to think that in the subsequent years I have grown in confidence and knowledge – even ability – through all the information, ideas and experiences that are shared with us by Kerith and Ann, and by sitting alongside other, more experienced singers.

I love the variety of songs and styles we sing. I love the fact that a CD is recorded each time for me to practise with – so you might hear me singing as I drive around Bundanoon! I love the sense of friendship and community we feel, and the fact that we all (especially Kerith and Ann) work hard to learn and grow and perform together as best we can. I love the sense of participation and satisfaction in being part of something that gives so much joy and pleasure to so many in our community. And I loved the structure and purpose that singing in *Serendipity* gave me after my husband, David, died almost four years ago.

For me, it is a wonderful privilege to be part of such a talented group of singers, with such able and experienced leaders, singing inspiring music for the community I love.

—Jane Irwin

On being a chorister

RECENTLY I WAS asked by someone who had attended a *Serendipity* concert what I got out of being a chorister. I must confess that I was peeved by the question. It seemed unnecessary to explain – there had been a demonstrably enthusiastic response to the concert from the audience!

Obviously, the ultimate pleasure for a chorister lies in performance. It is great to have a song to sing, but thrilling to be able to communicate the wonder and excitement of it to others.

The best explanation I can give of what I get out of being a chorister comes from answering the more fundamental question – “Why sing?” Singing, for me, is the expression of otherwise ineffable emotion. Essentially it is praise – praise that instinctively arises from experiencing the mystery and joy of life. Singing inspires the poetic imagination. It is primal. Some of the earliest creative impulses I remember from childhood have been reawakened by singing with *Serendipity*.

There are phrases from tenor lines I have followed in the past five years that have found their way into lines of poetry. More prosaically, singing practices at home have detached me from the pettiness of many everyday frustrations.

I have rediscovered singing with others to be an enabling and transforming activity. Team *Serendipity* is greater than the sum of its players. Each chorister's part is enlivened by the parts of others. The choir acquires a life of its own and it is thus that it engages and uplifts its audience.

Needless to say, none of the above would be possible without gifted artistic direction. To be empowered in the art of music-making by Kerith Fowles and Ann Clipsham is a singular privilege. It is the highlight, for me, of being a chorister with *Serendipity: the choir*.

—Ken Ferrier

'Those things we love we seek to have again'

IN THE 1960S' studio setting of Sydney Uni Architecture Faculty, Philip Walker's teachers included Lloyd Rees – a great enthusiast – who taught drawing and lectured on Art History. Philip has long appreciated the value of drawing by hand. He laments its loss by contemporary training in computer

aided drawing (CAD) and sees an interesting challenge for designers to accommodate.

Philip and Liz Walker spent much of their early life together revelling in the excitement of working and travelling overseas. Using London as their base, they would return to pick up their employment, save enough for



Ghost ship



more travel and then take off again. What a charmed life!

Eventually Australia called them back and Philip began employment with the architectural firm working significantly on the design of Australia's New Parliament House in Canberra, so in the '80s Philip and his family picked up sticks and moved from Sydney to Canberra. As a team leader his particular brief was the detailed design of the public areas of the building, including the Main Foyer. His team grew and became largely responsible for most of the central zone. An exciting time!

Sculptor Philip Walker

Mastering the dance

BLESSED WITH OPPORTUNITY to learn to dance in my youth, I learnt the essentials of rhythm, timing and the difference between left and right early on. After a time as a professional dancer, I chose to be sensible and earn a living so I returned to a trade of commercial cookery... then I turned 40!

So it went without saying that when I was looking for a fitness regime that I would also enjoy, I naturally gravitated back to what I knew and loved, and that was to dance!

I started social ballroom and Latin American classes with the wonderfully talented Trudi Smith at THSPA in Bowral. My partnership with long term local property manager Jane Easter was

published in *jcg* some time ago and these classes were an absolute blast, everyone looked forward to them and they eventually led to a competition partnership.

A whole new world of dance opened for me! A disciplined sport with a structured technique. The training and execution of true ballroom dancing is no easy feat. The competition world is full of 'over the top' glamour, fashion, hair and makeup and it's fraught with jealousy – mostly in the young adult levels. I dance in the 'Masters' division, and despite the physical demands we pretty much enjoy the social aspect of it all. Well, sort of... to be fit I need to work out regularly at the gym.

—Robert Henderson



In 1988 Philip and his family returned to Sydney with the firm, where they remained until 2005. As for many of us, Bundanoon appealed as an attractive place in which Philip and Liz could enjoy the next stage of their lives.

Philip continues to undertake courses at the National Art School in Darlinghurst, learning about the ancient traditions that governed the artist/studio workshop styled classes. His personal thoughts about the artistic process have developed from this. He believes passionately that those things we love we seek to have again. He sees art, especially the visual arts and music, as a world view and believes that everything he sees and thinks is coloured by his genuine appreciation of the artistic process. He remembers that when he started out as a student architect he was shown a cross section detail of a timber windowsill and was fascinated that someone could draw that and another person could build something from it. That experience of artistic communication has stayed with him.

The 'way he sees things' is important to him. Art is necessarily subjective. Philip is interested in the processes involved – learning, thinking, making, rethinking - an outcome of his architectural training and experience. He is not interested in the notion that art always has to 'say something'. Although having a traditional view of drawing, he has recently come to understand that no work comes except via his own mind, even subconsciously. He has learned to follow the medium that comes naturally. In assembling found objects into sculpture he accepts alternatives to likenesses and approaches composition freely and openly. He has learned to 'stand back', observe what he's done and so is informed as to what should happen next.

Making broad marks on large drawing surfaces or laying out solid material make unexpected compositions. He can feel free to start with any subject, in any form – poetry, music, people, events. All are mind experiences brought out in the drawing process.

Philip prefers subjects that resonate – loved experiences – and says he is becoming unashamedly sentimental in both subject selection and media. He loves 'doing it' for

itself. He has won prizes at the Kangaroo Valley Arts Festival for his sculptures 'Tall Grass' in 2007 and 'Ghost Trio' in 2009 and was awarded 'people's choice' at Sculpture on High @ Hillview in 2012 and believes that to exhibit is a privilege. Prizes become an endorsement. For art, everyday things and loved experiences, particularly local, are becoming his fare!

—Graeme Whisker

Colour matches



Dancing like this is like being in "Strictly Ballroom LIVE"...
What could be more fun than that?



Bundanoon Highlanders make the grade



AFTER SWITCHING CODES to rugby league just two years ago, after a number of seasons playing in the Illawarra rugby union competition, the Bundanoon Highlanders have enjoyed their most successful season to date.

For the first time in the club's history, the 2013 season saw player numbers swell to a comfortable level. The bench was full at every game, which greatly relieved the pressure on the whole team and allowed them to play to their true potential.

Despite increased numbers, injury plagued the Highlanders from early in the season, with some key players falling to injury in the first few games. However, it was great to see the injured players attend each game and accept other support roles.

Brett Breeze took over coaching the team when they changed codes, and it is through his enthusiasm and skill that player numbers at training, twice a week, have reached record levels, which, in turn, resulted in wins on the field. Brett's support assistants, including Debbie Breeze, Shane Martin, Peter Hewson, Mark Hickey, Brian Martin, Teejay Sara, Scott Shepherd, Grant Perkins and Kyal Martin should also be congratulated.

Sponsorship was strong this year and the Bundanoon Highlanders would like to

thank Bundanoon Club, ProTURE, Gibraltar Constructions, Hume Coal, FTR Building, J&J Stonewall Constructions, Don Turner Earthworks and Happy Cat Dry Cleaners for their support this season. Community support was also strong, and it was a huge incentive to players to have so many locals present at home games and a strong core group who supported the team every week when they played away from home.

The Highlanders' end of season celebration was held at Bundanoon Club on October 12 with presentations being made by President Grant Perkins, Vice-President Chris Ingmire and Coach Brett Breeze. Major award winners this season were Paul Quigg, Tim Martin, Dane Trompert, Geoff McKeown, Steve Hickey, Jarah Boland, Mick Hewson and Brett Breeze.

Harvey Grennan was also present and made a special presentation to the club on behalf of the Bundanoon Community Association (BCA). This is the inaugural award from the BCA and Chris Ingmire was proud to accept on behalf of the Highlanders. It is this sort of recognition from local organisations that will help the team put the name "Bundanoon" on the competition shield.

In their first year of playing league, the Highlanders earned a position in the competition semi-finals. This year they finished third in the regular competition and made it all the way through to the qualifying final. This is a remarkable achievement, and shows the level of commitment by all concerned.



Chris Ingmire and Harvey Grennan

Next year, the boys are aiming high. With continued dedication from players, trainers, sponsors, families and the Bundanoon community, 2014 could well prove to be the *Year of the Highlanders*.

—Rob Randazzo



Right: Sam Burnham resists a tackle

A tennis renaissance in Bundanoon!

OUR CLUB IS growing with new members of all ages. The recent club championships reflect the new enthusiasm for tennis in Bundanoon. A recent event held at Bundanoon Tennis Club was a great success – the largest number of entries ever and competitors as young as five through to players in their 80s – a spread of over 80 years!

Our new professional coach Geoff Good was on hand to meet club members and present the junior awards. Geoff has added a new dimension to the programs run by our volunteer coaches, bringing 27 years of coaching experience with beginners through to players on the international satellite circuit.

Most of us give up singles as fitness fades but two seasoned octogenarians (Ted Anderson and Denis Hoye) battled out a match in the "B grade Singles". Both are keen to try again next year.

Well done to all who participated and helped make the day a great success!

—Mike Swinden



"Tennis - A game for all ages".

Netball

Bundanoon Blue 2013



Back L to R: Jessica Williams, Bridie Reid, Mackenzie Beets, Bridie Muir, Lyndsay Harris,
Front L to R: Josh Joseph, Amilië Su, Heidi McIntosh, Paris Wandell.
Coach: Vericka Giuliano.

THE BUNDANOON NETBALL Club had a fantastic season in 2013, having four teams in the competition with our Netta's, Junior Division 1, Junior Division 2 and Intermediates.

It was wonderful to see three teams in the finals and very exciting to have two teams

into the grand finals. For the first time in our club's history we came away with a grand final win for our Junior Division 1 girls.

Well done to all our girls and supporters and a huge thank you to our Sponsors – Todd's Real Estate, Val's Eco Cleaning, Coffee

Culture, Megan Peacock Photography, Primula Café, Bundanoon Pizza and Pasta and Bowral Wholesale for their continuing support.

We look forward to seeing past and future girls and ladies at Registration in early 2014.

—Jo-Anne Dale



Treading the boards



WHILE EVERY BUNDANOON Public School concert is different from the last, there is one thing that remains the same year after year, and that is the self-confidence on the students' faces when the concert is done. Robyn Versluis, the school principal, remembers fondly how students come bounding up to her after the performance and say, "I could do that again!" It is the pride on their faces that she loves to recall the most.

This pride in their achievement is no accident. It is planned from the very early stages of the concert when teachers choose the exact play to suit the age and skills of their students. It is grown in the many hours of practise that build team work and a 'you-can-do-it' attitude. And it is strengthened by the detailed costumes and stage props – labours of love – that allow the children to feel a part of something truly professional and important... and of course, fun!

—Lisa Saul



Fire-fighting duo

people

MANY BUNDANOON RESIDENTS will already know Rosemary Page and John Brock but I have only recently had the privilege, of not only meeting them, but of learning about their extraordinary lives. The couple has been together since 1997 with John relocating from Baulkham Hills the previous year. Rosemary has been in Bundanoon since 1989 when she and her late husband, Robert, moved here. Rosemary and her husband were members of the local Rural Fire Service (RFS), Rosemary in the auxiliary and Robert as a volunteer fire-fighter. During the horrific fires which were widespread across NSW in 1994, Robert was killed when a large tree fell across a water tanker he and four other men were using to mop up after a fire in bush near Grafton.

After such a tragedy it is wonderful that these two people met and in the years that they have been together, have played such important roles in the life of Bundanoon. Firstly, to be closer to Rosemary John joined the local RFS in 1996. Both have fought fires – Rosemary has always felt much calmer if she is actually out fighting alongside John than waiting at home and worrying. However, although her fire-fighting days are now over, she is still an active member of the auxiliary. John continues to fight fires and is the deputy captain of the Bundanoon Brigade and the equipment manager. Our interview took place while they were on call at the RFS depot during a severe fire alert. Luckily for our community there are so many wonderful volunteers who put their lives on the line to protect the rest of us.

Our local brigade is well supported by the NSW RFS, by the hard work of the auxiliary, through fund raising and earnings through the volunteers' work during Brigadoon and the Highland Fling for which the brigade is financially compensated. The depot is looking very well cared for, with the recent addition of a new roof along with the installation of insulation. Outside of fire crises, volunteers meet weekly for training and are also involved in community engagement by visiting schools and holding community events.

Although their roles in the RFS take up much of their time, Rosemary and John are also active members of the Bundanoon Community Association (BCA). Rosemary has been a member since 1995 and John since 1997. One challenge Rosemary was involved with was the rebuilding of the local fire station some years ago. Happily the BCA was successful in having it rebuilt with a gabled roof and not the flat roof which had been planned. Green Team activities have also been part of their BCA activities. They feel it's important for Bundanoon to retain its distinctive village character and they were actively involved in the Norlex spring water development protest. Together they were part of the renovation team for the new kitchen



in the Memorial Hall. For some time Rosemary and John were the deliverers of 'Welcome Packs' to our new residents and conveners of the Rex Cinema, sourcing their movies from the National Sound and Film Archive in Canberra. John organises the village street lighting during Winterfest and Christmas celebrations.

Surprisingly, considering how much time is taken up with the RFS and the BCA, Rosemary and John have time for leisure activities. Rosemary belongs to a weekly walking group; is a keen weaver, making such things as placemats and floor rugs; is a member of a local book club; and along with John, works on the garden in their new house. She and John are members of the Bundanoon History Group and they enjoy bushwalking and dining out with friends.

Together and separately they are a very visible presence in Bundanoon and although they intend stepping back from some of their activities they retain significant roles in RFS.

—Sandy McKenzie

October 2013 Highlands fires

AFTER EXTINGUISHING A grass fire on Ringwood Road, Exeter, the Bundanoon Brigade was diverted to a smoke sighting at Robertson. This sighting was actually the fire at Yanderra.

Once the fire was declared a Section 44, all resources were called in – helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, bulldozers, and fire-fighters from NSW and interstate.

Our Brigade was tasked to various locations each day from 17 to 25 October (9 days) – Hilltop, Wilton, Yerrinbool, Avon Dam and two days at Bargo Air Base, where we provided fire protection to the "hot" refuelling of helicopters. Other tasks were back-burning, blacking out and patrolling the perimeters.

Brigade members worked with National Parks, Forestry and Water Catchment personnel.

Long days were involved for the crew of 5 or 6 personnel, leaving the Fire Station at 0600 hours and returning between 2100 and 2200 hours at night.

CATERING FOR VOLUNTEERS is an essential part of all fire-fighting and emergency operations and in the Wingecarribee Shire the kitchen at Mittagong RFS is at the heart of providing meals. In the 1990s locals Dave Lidgard, Doug Swain and Ray Wheatley transformed an old bus shell into a canteen valued at \$80,000. Funds for the project were raised over a number of years through Brigadoon and Moss Vale Show with many extras such as building materials, refrigerators and freezers donated by local service clubs and businesses. This served the RFS well until recently when it was replaced by a state-of-the-art mobile canteen funded by the Department for NSW Rural Fire Services. Local brigades also contributed financially. This vehicle is now used in all emergencies in the Shire to supply food to members of a range of services.



During the recent Highlands fires when the demand for food distribution was so great, meals were prepared in an emergency kitchen at Moss Vale Showground and at Mittagong RSL. Sandwiches were made and packed in Sydney. With so many fire sites the SES was required to supply transport.

Dave Lidgard

*New
Chef!*



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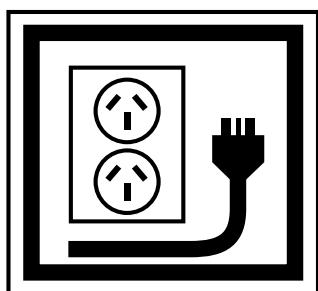
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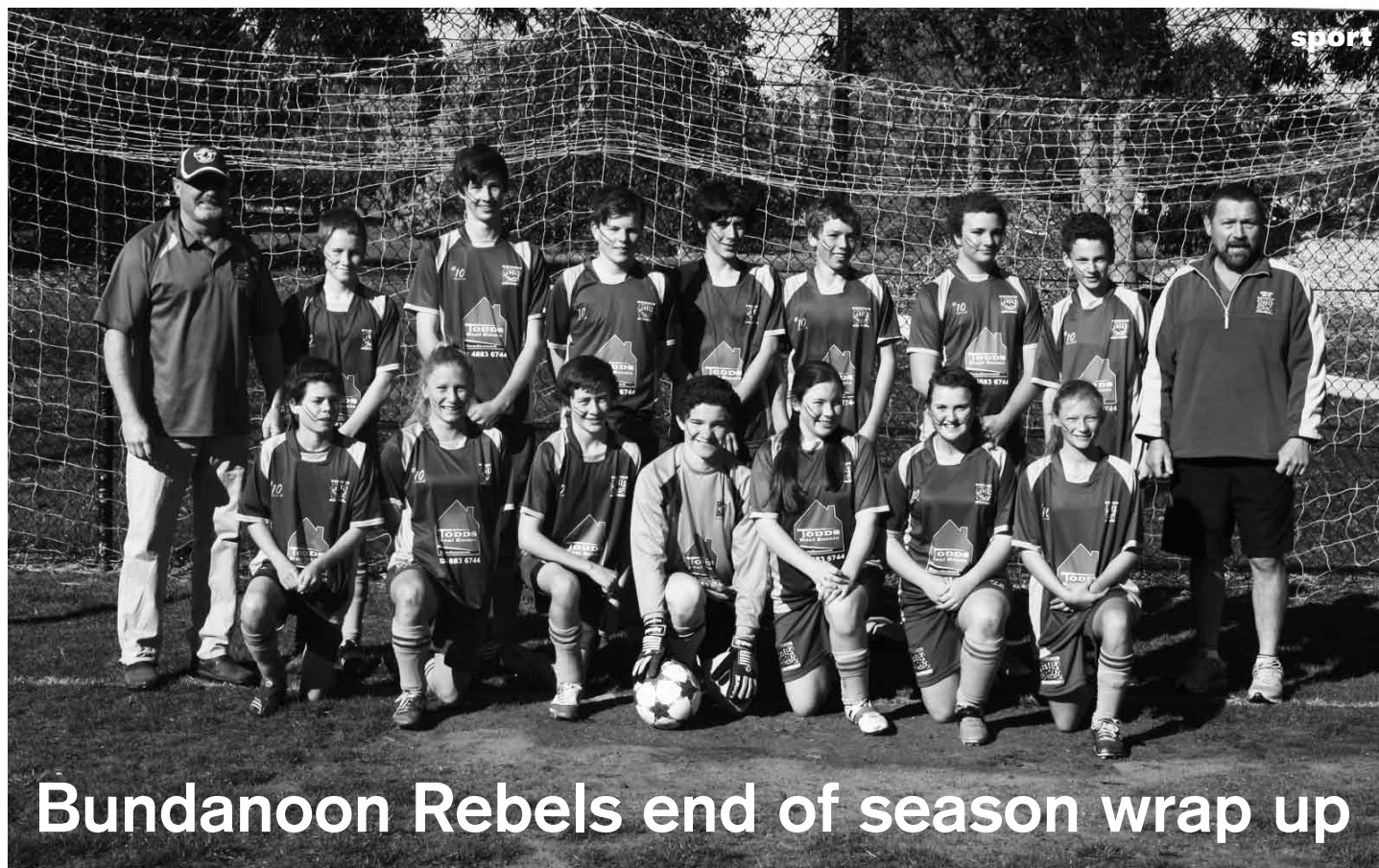
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Bundanoon Rebels end of season wrap up

Under-15s Premiers

IT HAS BEEN another great year for the Bundanoon Rebels Soccer club with our registrations up and some wonderful young talent coming up through the ranks.

With Phil Tallon again accepting the role as President and with some new faces accepting positions on the committee, 2014 is looking like a great year. Plans are already in place to

purchase new uniforms for our junior players and a new entrance to the club is almost there with just the landscaping to finalise.

During February 2014 we will be holding skills clinics for juniors ages 6–8, 9–12 and 12–16; everyone is welcome.

Our club could not survive without sponsors so we warmly thank those who helped us this year: Todds Real Estate, Ravensworth Motel, Reliable Roofing and Sherwood Machinery, to name only a few. We are reliant on your generosity and we are hoping to welcome you all back again for 2014. New sponsors are always welcomed so if you know anyone who would like to be associated with one of the largest clubs in the southern end of the district please contact Phil Tallon on 4883 6798.

How can I end this without mentioning our Under-15s who ended the season as

Premiers with an amazing grand final win against MBK (Goulburn). Our team included five Under-13 players and some soccer recruits who had never played before; as the year went on they grew from strength to strength developing into a technical group of devoted and hardworking players. The grand final itself was a nail biting game to the very end and Bundanoon came out victorious following a penalty shoot out. One of the most tense and enjoyable games of football I have ever watched. The Bundanoon supporters were many and vocal, and it was a great day.

Unfortunately our All-Age women's team lost their grand final to Robertson but I am sure the whole team will all be back next year to prove their worth and put their hands on the trophy.

—Tina Day



Under-15s Rebels played MBK (Goulburn)



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Rosemarie Gray

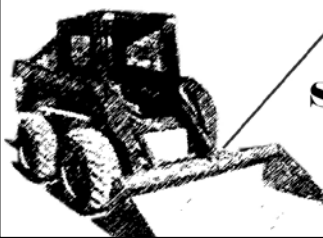
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THE FATHER OF the other small boy about to dive into the Mittagong 50 metre pool with my son and four other cold children, stood with me in the rain watching nervously. Our little heroes had never swum 50 metres before. The Bundanoon pool is only 25 metres long with always a wall to touch, an easily reached safe haven. At the far end of the pool both our little boys looked small and very young. The full 50 metres stretched interminably before them. Someone from our crowd called out, "Ready for a win!" – A win? – We were both just praying for a finish; a 'not drowning'; desperately hoping neither boy would have to be pulled ingloriously to the side of the pool by a lifeguard. Both small figures leaped into the pool as the starter's gun exploded and took the term 'freestyle' to new heights. Both finished – last and second last. We could not have been prouder. Over the course of one glorious summer my son went from a 12-metre kick board to 50-metre school rep. Thank you Bundanoon Swimming Club!

Being able to enjoy the water, whether beach, pool or sea, is a wonderful part of our way of life. Learning to swim is an important rite of passage for most Australian children. Sadly, however, drowning remains one of the leading causes of preventable death of Australian children.

The Bundanoon Swimming Club, a volunteer organisation, has been running for over 50 years. The Club supports our local swimming facility by generating community interest, increased use and support for swimming as a popular activity. The Club operates independently from Swimming NSW. This means our membership fees go towards improving our local pool, equipment and immediate pool surrounds.

Currently Bundanoon Swimming Club draws members from Bundanoon and the surrounding villages of Exeter, Penrose and Wingello. The club aims to provide an enjoyable, safe and healthy



Bundanoon Swimming Club
2013/14 Season
Wednesday November 20, 2013 to Wednesday March 5, 2014.
6pm - 7:45pm each Wednesday evening during the school term

For Further Information Contact:
bundanoonswimmingclub@gmail.com

SEE YOU IN THE POOL!

environment in which to develop swimming skills and promote an active lifestyle for our local children. Members improve their swimming skills through weekly practice and swimming with their friends. Each meet, swimmers are encouraged to enter the races they feel comfortable participating in. They learn to enjoy the sport by challenging themselves and participating in friendly competition as they cheer on their mates.

Bundanoon Swim Club looks forward to a great season of swimming fun and personal bests! Our season runs for ten weeks from Wednesday 20th November 2013 to Wednesday 5th March 2014. Swimming Club meets start at 6pm and finish at approximately 7:45pm each Wednesday evening during the school term.

We look forward to seeing you and your children at the pool.

—Virginia Boyle



Peddalling words

by Huw Kingston

Peddalling on ...and on

EVERY THURSDAY THE FOFILs meet to head off into the local forests for a three-hour ride. A group of up to ten mountain bikers in their 60s and 70s, some of whom have been riding for each of their decades, others for only their last one. The *Fat Old Farts In Lycra* are just one of an increasing number of groups around the Southern Villages who love heading out on the bike. At the Fling last year a Great Grandmasters category was introduced to meet the demand from riders over 70.

Peddalling Words caught up with a few local riders 'of a certain age' for whom the saddle is as important as the sofa.

Gerhard Fricke, 71 – Originally from Germany, Gerhard was a keen cyclist until he was 20 when two wheels took a back seat to four. He got back on a bike after retiring to Bundanoon about ten years ago but it was 2007 when he became a regular rider. I bumped into Gerhard, astride his full carbon Focus (a German brand), as he was riding down Old Argyle Road into Penrose Forest. "I just love being out in the bush and keeping fit" said Gerhard "I like to ride at my own pace so tend to ride on my own most of the time. And of course every ride needs to finish with a coffee at Exeter, Bundanoon or Penrose. Favourite ride? It's a toss up between the descent of Meryla Pass from Fitzroy Falls to Kangaroo Valley or the annual Xmas Eve Ride." (Each Xmas Eve some 50 local riders pedal to the Yacht Club* for champagne before returning via the swimming hole at Stingray Swamp for a dip followed by coffee and mince pies).

Victor Menson – "You must not say my age Huw; I do not want all the girls to know!" Victor said to me with a wink. Suffice to say Victor is probably the oldest person regularly riding in Bundanoon. You certainly won't see Victor in lycra – more likely a woollen jumper – as he does his daily circuit around Bundanoon on an old Merida ex hire bike. "I've always been on a bike, all my life. For me it is the nature that is important; to be on a bike to see birds and sense the outdoors. Also it is good for my knees."

John Marks, 68 – After a career hanging off the outside of skyscrapers doing high access work, John came down to earth in Exeter. He used to cycle commute over 30 years ago but started to ride for fun in his mid 50s. "But it was not really until three or four years ago that I really got into it, really started regular riding. I never thought I would race on a mountain bike, but in the past 12 months I've ridden in the 3 Ring Circus twice and did the Casual Fling in 2012. I signed up for the 2013 55km Half Fling. Nervous? You bet but I just love the atmosphere of the events. I generally ride twice a week for two to three hours with friends from Exeter and Moss Vale and have recently started going out with the FOFILs."

Cliff Lander (71), Roy McEwan (71), Barry Whitton (76) – the group of gents who ride around Bundanoon most mornings. There are many others, and of course women doing exactly the same but, my mother always told me never to ask a lady her age...

*Deep in Penrose Forest is a 40 foot steel yacht lying abandoned on its side amongst the pines.



Life skills

by Rosemarie Gray

Communication skills for a positive relationship

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, UNDERSTANDING and empathy form the foundation that solid relationships are built upon. Yet statistics prove that most of us aren't very good at it. Try learning these communication skills and putting them into practice with partners. Many of these skills also apply in relationships with friends or colleagues.

Value openness with your partner. Keep your relationship open and honest. Agree that feelings should be expressed, ideas should be shared, and nothing should be held back. This especially applies in personal relationships. Talk regularly.

Be assertive and take responsibility for your feelings. You may think your partner knows what you want, need and feel. That's usually not the case. Don't be afraid to share your needs, thoughts and desires with your partner. It's more than likely your partner wants to hear what you have to say.

Maintain a positive and constructive attitude. You may be having a terrible day. Any conversation you have with your partner will likely result in him/her "catching" your attitude due to emotional contagion, or transference of emotion. This proven psychological and physiological process simply states that if you're forced to interact with someone who's angry, you are likely to become angry. If you're speaking to someone who's happy, that happiness will probably rub off on you too.

Avoid verbal abuse. Refrain from insults, put-downs, and expressions of disdain or disgust. Avoid generalizations and stereotypes. Such statements are hurtful to your spouse, and cause resentment, increase hostility and damage your relationship.

Learn to respond rather than react. Reacting means an automatic, knee-jerk reaction to something that your partner has said or done. This initial response is probably not going to be the best response and is likely to result in you saying or doing something you'll regret.

Instead, learn to regulate your emotions. To use your communication skills effectively, you'll need a cool head. Take a deep breath and formulate a rational, constructive response to the situation.

Choose your words carefully. Give your statements a constructive spin. When voicing your feelings, complaints, or even criticism, use "I" statements such as: "I feel...", "I believe...", "I would like...". These are non-threatening statements that focus on your feelings. They express how you've been affected by your partner's behaviour.

Instead of saying what you hate, state what you want! Try statements such as: "It would mean a lot to me if you...", "I love it when you...". Instead of telling your partner to stop yelling, say, "I hear you."

Avoid "You" statements that would put your spouse on the defensive or trigger hostility. "You" statements may start with: "You always...", "You are...", "You make me feel..."

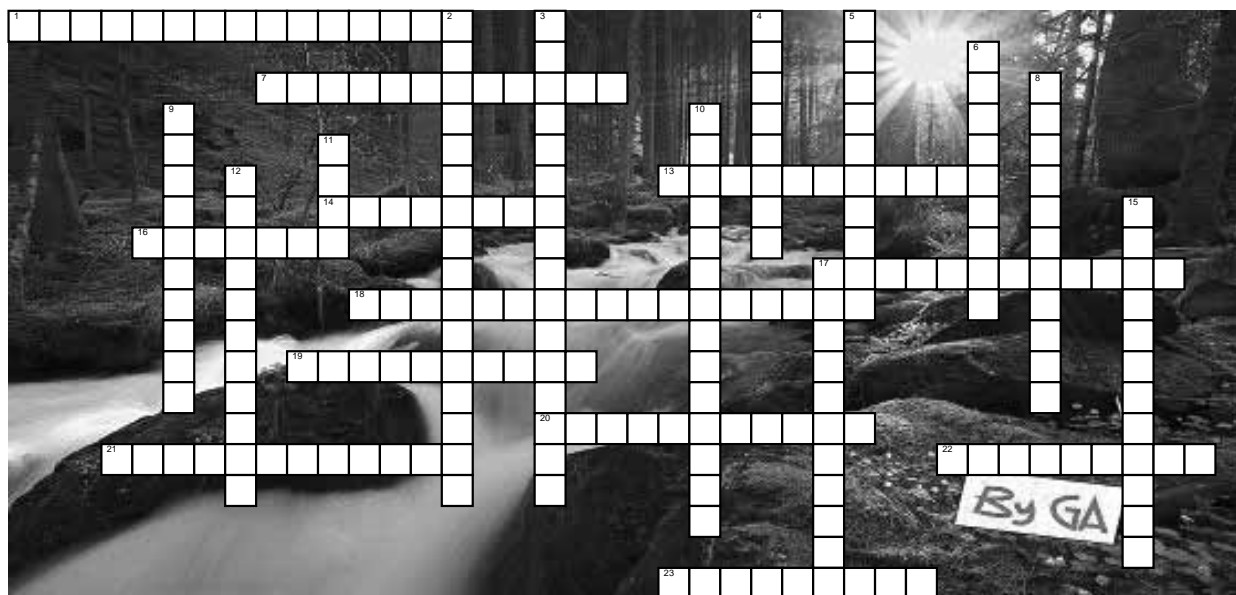
Address your partner's behaviour. Don't attack their character. If they have done something that has hurt you, use statements such as, "It hurts me when you..." instead of, "You insensitive idiot! How could you...". Once you've stated how it makes you feel, offer a suggestion on how to resolve the issue.

Don't let anger, problems or issues build up and boil over. Don't sweep problems under the rug, where they will fester and grow. Sharing your thoughts as well as your problems is healthy in every relationship.

Study these communication skills with your partner. Practise them and implement them. You'll find that these communication skills will strengthen your relationship and make your lives together happier and more harmonious.

Cryptic crossword

All the clues relate to people, places & institutions
around or relevant to Bundanoon or nearby district & villages



Across

1. Madmen congruity authored a local plot! (9,6)
7. Where Tiger made his name and the meat was flipped for the local landscapers. (3,5,4)
13. Jets? Rye Monk goes for a rev. (6,5)
14. Send Mesh quick! The blokes are here! (4,4)
16. The writer got up just down the road. (7)
17. Bedlam Ranger insane meandering among the flowers. (6,6)
18. Deacon Unbroken. mad, mad, mad! but provides us all with a drink. (9,5,3)
19. A Pink Egret? Complex but synonymous with 21 across. (6,4)
20. "Fine Cotton" first, then made to shoot arrows at fish. Rolling up in Bundy since 1949. (4,7)
21. Don Quixote's search for the time allotted reveals a healing concept. (5,3,4)
22. Lookout for the rebound ahead of either North, South, East or West. (4,5)
23. A' do knot miss the abbreviated Knot all at sea. After the ship's prison— An April affair? (9)

Down

2. The phonograph needed them and then chatted "they're a crafty crew". (7,3,6)
3. Nabbed! Uncool Hunt malfunctioning for where 20 Across takes place. (3,9,4)
4. The cream in the creamery ran dry to be replaced by Ulysses' hero for the nursery. (8)
5. A ram with a sun tan ran across the way from Shangri La for meditation. (10)
6. Dross and stones provide a product for which Bundy is famed. (9)
8. Sounds like the tailor was behind the beef cattle representative! (5,6)
9. Boo!!! Birds associated with 16 Across. (10)
10. The rooks, at face value, a new name for a local stop & stay. (3,11)
11. Me? Uh!! Could it be our seat? (4)
12. Acquire, by the sound of it, a happy coincidence. (11)
15. Related to the Sun and the windy seasons retreat. (5,7)
17. Chaplets, laurels, wreaths and leis mark this way. (7,4)

Solution page 47

Men's Shed celebration

WHAT DO WE do when we have a new, nearly completed extension to our Shed?

For many of our members it will mean taking a bit of a break as considerable effort, sweat, hours and skill have gone into building the internal stairs, installation of power and lighting, insulating the walls and ceiling and installing windows.

For others it has involved "repatriating" machinery and equipment that has been cluttering their own sheds or garages to their proper home or trips to Camden and Sydney to commence the task of transporting metalworking machinery recently purchased with the aid of funds from Wingecarribee Shire Council.

It also provides an opportunity to thank our fund donors, Veolia Mulwaree Trust, the NSW Government and Wingecarribee Shire

Council without which our building would still be just a concept.

Lastly, this milestone coincides with our recent incorporation which means that Bundanoon Men's Shed is now a stand-alone organisation as befits our expanding membership and track record of community involvement. The celebrations allow us to thank Anglicare who as our auspicing body have contributed so much in the establishment of our Shed through administrative and financial support and in enthusiastic encouragement.

An art and photography exhibition by members formed part of the formal celebrations at the end of November.

For enquiries about BMS, call in at 11 Burgess Street or visit our website bundanoonmensshed.com for contact details.

—Evan Smith



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CWA report

IT MUST BE the winds battering our areas these recent months that have added my mind.

I actually have to concentrate hard to create this report, which I usually love to do.

One thing, always a pleasure to refer to - is our lovely children of Bundanoon Public School. The Principal, Robyn Versluis, and her tireless team of dedicated teachers have always interacted with CWA with the particular task of providing books or posters (or both) for our yearly "Country of Study" which (as mentioned before) was Morocco in 2013.

We did have a special day on 12 September at our CWA rooms with delicious Moroccan food and President Kath Smith performed a very stylish "pouring of fragrant tea" benignly supervised by Ania, our International Officer, who had created a detailed book on Morocco.

Robyn Versluis also invited CWA to attend Bundanoon School on 29 October see the 6th class presentation on "Global Connection" and "Trivial Pursuit". At the same time CWA presented certificates for the Moroccan Poster created by the children and displayed in our rooms in September. This is always a highlight for us.

Our Annual General Meeting on 10 October was not as well attended as hoped, mainly because it was a day of extreme weather warning which may have discouraged some of our members; however the meeting was graced by the presence of Helen Kent,

President of Bowral CWA, and the election of new officers was carried out. Kath returns as President and other officers remain in much the same positions.

Our Christmas Party is always a lovely get-together each year which we all enjoy.

Most people feel a little tired by the end of December after all the fuss of the 'Jolly Season' mostly (I think) because it all comes during summer and personally I feel as limp as overcooked spaghetti.

The energizing activity to re-start in January is always our "Friendship Day". The guest speaker will be Mrs Suzanne Garrett who will tell us about her experience attending the ACWW World Conference in Chennai, India. The date is still to be set so watch for it to be advertised. Now, I ask you, can CWA be boring if one can travel to such exotic places?

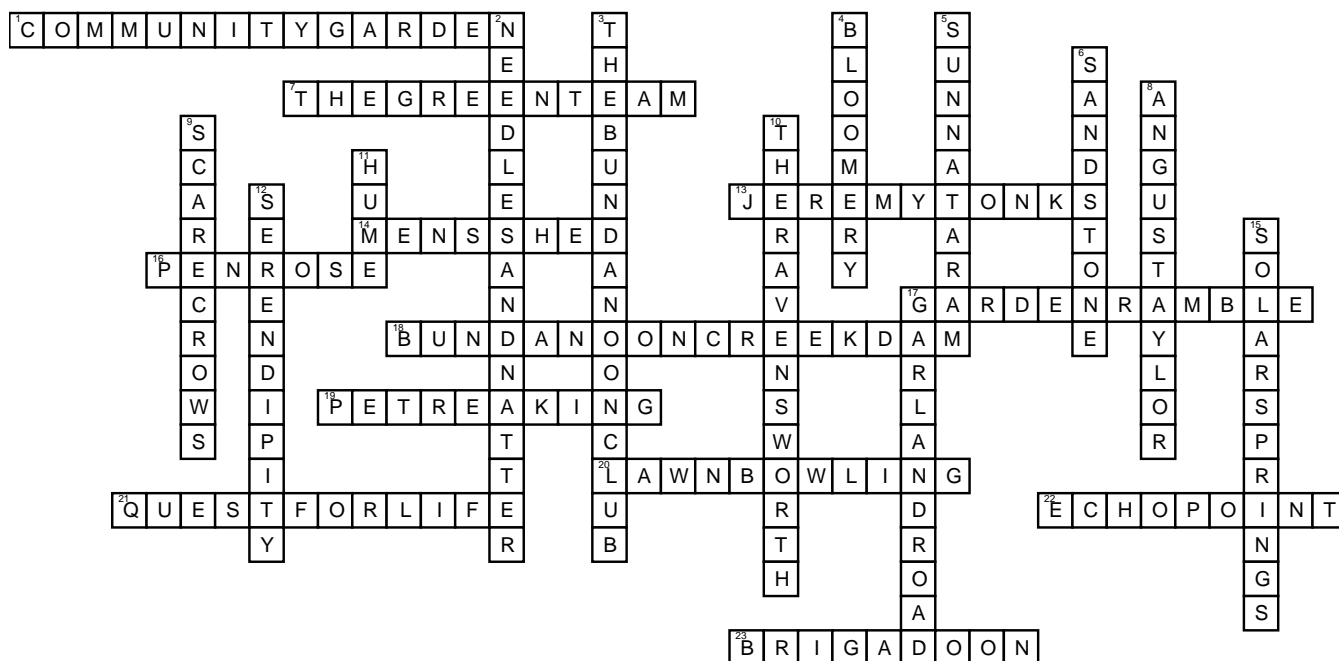
Not to mention the visits and invitations to other groups' activities? "Cultural Days" are always fun!

Activities are as interesting as the people who organize them but also the people who participate add to the success of our events.

On that note CWA Bundanoon wishes a happy festive season to all our members and friends. To everyone, may your days be filled with good health, love and tolerance.

—Francesca Gunesch, Publicity Officer

Crossword solution





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CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION

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advertising index

ACCOMMODATION

Bundanoon Lodge	50
Idle a While	44
Mildenhall Guesthouse	14
Treetops	50
Yallambee	51

AUTOMOTIVE

Allan Mackay Autos	5
Petersen's Garage	46

CAFES, RESTAURANTS, BARS

Bundanoon Chinese Restaurant	38
Bundanoon Hotel	38
Bundanoon Pizza & Pasta	57
Coffee Culture	57
Exeter General Store	48
Lauren's Café	7
The Bundanoon Club	20
The Primula Café	45
Ye Olde Bicycle Shoppe	59

CONSTRUCTION & TRADES

AJ's Parquetry	50
A Nosworthy Plumbing	55
Alan Weston Signs	54
Bundanoon Electrics	53
Chimney Sweep / Gardener	53
Chris Bromfield, Electrical Contractor	38
Don Turner's Earthworks	54
G&J Fellows Home Improvements	40
Gibraltar Constructions	55
Greenfield Electrical Services	40
Handy Mick	55
J A Wellington Haulage	54
Peter McGrath, Rural Contracting	54
Reliable Roofing Services	38
S&J Osmond Painting and Decorating	40
Sherwood Machinery	59
Simon Dickson, Bobcat and Tipper Hire	40
Worner's Haulage	54

EDUCATION & RELIGION

Anglican Church	48
First aid courses	38

EVENTS & RECREATION

Highlands Chauffeured Cars	58
Moss Vale Travel	12
Shibumi Equestrian Centre	51

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Pru Goward, MP	52
----------------------	----

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Bundanoon Cutting Cottage	12
Bundanoon Massage Therapy	45
Bundanoon Medical Centre	6
Bundanoon Pharmacy	14
Bundanoon Wellbeing Co	12
Buttermilk Counselling	51
Chiropractic & Allied Health	6
Harmony and Health Massage	7
Highlands Podiatry	45
Quest for Life Foundation	51
Solar Springs	4

HOUSE & GARDEN

Arthur Lathouris Landscaping	56
Above All Arbor	55
Annette's Florist	14
Belisa Cashmere	46
Bundanoon Bloomery	59
Elegant Window Solutions	50
Highland Sand & Gravel	53
Highlight the Shutter People	44
Home and Garden, Landscaping	40
Jacqueline Cory, Curtain Making	14
Monty's Makeovers	3
Nest & Burrow	5
Reid Brothers Fine Furniture	57
Steve Curtis, Grass, Glass & Gardens	52
Tankar Self Storage	54

MAIN STREET RETAIL

Australia Post	46
Bundanoon Butchery	59
Bundanoon Newsagency	3
Bundanoon Supermarket	56

PETS

Bundanoon Vet	54
Comfort Pet Grooming	55
Dog-minding	40
Southern Highlands Veterinary Centre	44

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Braeside Legal	12
Brian Salway, Accountant	3
C.F. Davies Solicitors	14
Deborah Buchanan, Accountant	47
Denise Graham JP, Celebrant	50
Gary Antaw, Surveyor	14
House of Maberly Secretarial	57
Dr John Salmon, Dentist	45
Fat Wombat Design	5
Key Computers	57
Lawrence Huxley, Building Design	51
Marija Higley, Mobile Lawyer	46
Meals on Wheels	7
Northern Counselling	40
Richard Reading, Lawyer	14
Rick Mandelson, Accountant	6
Southern Highlands Funerals	44
Susan Playford, Licensed Conveyancer	48
Westonprint	56

REAL ESTATE AND FINANCE

Highlands Rural Real Estate	58
Jordans Crossing Real Estate	8
Paul Walker, Finance Experts	56
Todds Real Estate	2, 60

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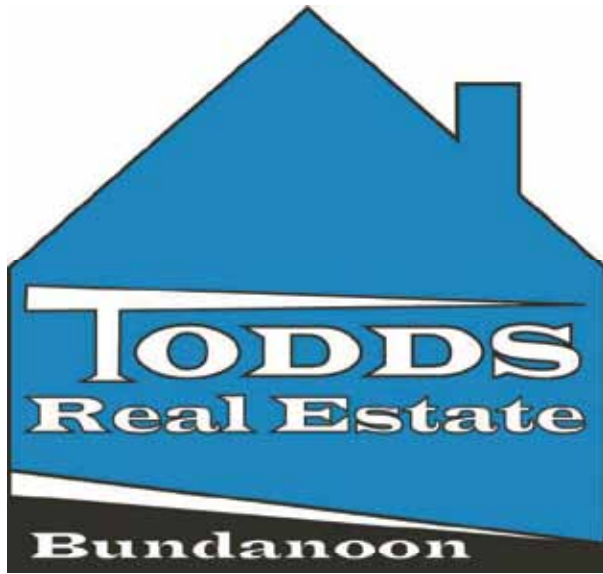
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